

THE NATION

AND ATHENÆUM

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EVENTS OF THE WEEK

EVENTS in China continue to deserve the first place in public attention. It is not easy to disentangle the real facts of the Hankow riots from a mass of sensational and contradictory reports; but what actually happened appears to be as follows. As the result of anti-foreign agitation, the Hankow mob got badly out of hand, and there were collisions between rioters, strike leaders, and the bluejacket and marine guards. The temper of the mob rose, and it became evident that the guards could not keep the mob back without serious fighting. They were accordingly withdrawn, without opening fire; the British Concession was evacuated by the women and children; and the Cantonese troops, who had observed a surly neutrality during the collisions between the mob and the Concession guards, marched in and restored order. Up to the present there have been no reports of pillaging or looting, and the Nationalist Government has now issued

a proclamation to the local authorities, insisting on the necessity of protecting European lives and property, and of suppressing all anti-British demonstrations while negotiations are going on with the British Government.

* * *

These events have, unfortunately, given a stimulus to the propaganda of those who clamour for a more vigorous gunboat and armed guard policy in China. The Bolshevik bogey is being worked for all it is worth, and the Press is filled with letters and telegrams demanding strong action for the restoration of British prestige. It will be nothing short of a disaster if this clamour is allowed to deflect the policy of the Government. British prestige will not be restored by a succession of Wanhsien incidents, and if the present negotiations break down, and fresh fuel is added to the fire of anti-foreign agitation, mere landing parties and Concession volunteers will not suffice for the protection of British lives and property all over China. On the other hand, the events at Hankow show that the Cantonese are both able, and, at the present moment, willing to maintain order, if necessary with a high hand.

* * *

The latest edicts issued by the Cantonese Foreign Ministry are peculiarly significant; for they suggest that the Cantonese Government feels sufficiently assured of the support of the orderly elements of Chinese society to take a strong stand against the boycott politicians and the forces of disorder, and that Mr. Chen, as we expected, takes the British Memorandum very seriously. A definite pledge is given that European lives and property will be protected; labour unions are warned that unjust demands will be sternly dealt with. Further, the Foreign Ministry speaks of "a new situation" created by the mission of Mr. O'Malley, the Counsellor of the British Legation at Peking, who has hurried to Hankow to get in touch with the Nationalist Government, and emphasizes the necessity for an atmosphere in which diplomacy can do its work. This is not the language of a Minister who is thinking merely of restoring the *status quo* at Hankow. It seems clear that Mr. Chen and his colleagues attach real importance to the negotiations for a *modus vivendi*, and are alarmed as to the possible effect of any further display of mob-violence. The negotiations will not be easy either for the British or the Cantonese Government, and those who are playing into the hands of the irresponsible agitators against whom Mr. Chen has now set his face, by clamouring for gunboats and landing parties at the wrong moment, are doing ill service to British interests and to our countrymen in China.

* * *

The French Socialists have gained eight seats in the senatorial elections; probably more owing to the complications of French electoral strategy than to any serious change in public opinion. The election has cer-

tainly been productive of the most extraordinary manœuvres. M. Millerand lost his seat because the Union Nationale refused to place him on their list of candidates. Still more surprising is the fact that M. Steeg, an old "bloc national" Minister, and the Resident-General in Morocco, has been elected by the support of the Communist Party. Meanwhile, the Deputies are worthily maintaining their reputation for parliamentary tactics. The election of the President of the Chamber opened in a triangular contest marked by bitter rivalry between the Socialists and the Radicals; it ended in a combination between the rivals, and the Socialist, M. Bouisson, was elected. We may gather from all this that the Chambers have recovered from their panic of the summer, and that MM. Poincaré and Briand (even if they can smooth over their own differences) are likely to have a difficult session.

* * *

Meanwhile, the Ministerial deadlock on the other side of the Rhine continues. Herr Curtius has been invited to form a Cabinet; but the difficulty of striking a balance between the Nationalists and the Left Centre seems as great as ever. Unfortunately, the weakness of the French and German Governments is a matter of more than domestic concern. Though the control of German disarmament is to be handed over to the League of Nations at the end of this month, there are a number of outstanding points still to be settled, and their settlement will tax to the utmost the judgment and authority of both Governments. As the Königsberg revelations have shown, there is real substance in the French complaints of attempts to impede or evade the work of the Commissioners; on the other hand, a section of the French Chambers and of the French Press is always ready to exaggerate these obstacles. In the main, the pacific policies of M. Briand and Herr Stresemann will probably hold the field, because there is no reasonable alternative; but in the present state of parties, there is real danger that such an incident as the Landau court-martial may give a handle to the extremists in either country and enable them to paralyze their respective Governments by a new turn of the political kaleidoscope.

* * *

A treaty of friendship and arbitration between Germany and Italy was signed in Rome on December 29th. According to the German newspapers, Signor Mussolini had wished that a personal meeting between himself and Herr Stresemann should accompany the signature; but the German Foreign Minister declined the proposal, as he wished the treaty to be regarded as simply juridical, and without any political colour or background. It is a little difficult to decide definitely whether the treaty can be used as a starting point for an amicable settlement of the Tyrol question; but article XIII suggests that the Italian negotiators do not intend that it should. This article runs: "The present treaty shall not be applied in questions which, according to the treaties existing between the two parties and to international law, are within the competence of the two parties"; by which is presumably meant matters within their domestic jurisdiction. As it would have been easy for Herr Stresemann to raise the Tyrolean issue at a personal interview, the German Government may fairly claim credit for their restraint. It is to be hoped that the treaty will, at all events, create an atmosphere favourable to the settlement of a question over which the Germans have a well-founded sense of grievance.

* * *

Last week Mr. Arthur Henderson made a weighty appeal to the Government to refrain from mischievous

interference with trade-union law. We discuss this matter in our leading article. This week Mr. Henderson has followed up his appeal by inviting the Prime Minister to summon a conference, under the chairmanship of the Speaker, between such representative bodies as the National Joint Council of the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party, and the National Confederation of Employers' Associations, for an informal, non-committal discussion of the whole industrial situation. Among the questions which such a conference could usefully consider, Mr. Henderson mentions the machinery for regulating the relations of employers and workpeople, and the desirability of creating some permanent Economic Council or Parliament of Industry, equipped with a competent technical staff. Here is Mr. Baldwin's opportunity. If he is really anxious to avoid the bitter conflict with Labour which an attack on trade-union privileges will inevitably involve, he has now a splendid excuse for postponing the whole question of such legislation. The summoning of such a conference at this juncture (quite apart from the chance of its deliberations bearing fruit, which is hard to estimate but by no means negligible) would do far more good than the most skilful amendments of the Trade Disputes Act could possibly achieve.

* * *

As we go to press, the General Council of the International Federation of Trade Unions is presumably discussing the British proposal for an unconditional conference with the Russian trade unions on the possibility of unity. Hitherto, the British representatives have been the champions of friendship with Russia, but recent experience of Russian interference in the domestic policy of the British unions has modified their attitude. Some weeks ago the General Council of the T.U.C. intimated plainly to Moscow that the Anglo-Russian Committee could only continue to function if it were clearly understood that interference with British trade-union policy would not be tolerated; and last week, Mr. Citrine, the Secretary of the General Council, stated in the DAILY HERALD that the limit of toleration had been reached by the publication in this country of a pamphlet by Lozovsky, the Secretary of the Red International. In this pamphlet, Mr. Pugh is called a liar, while Messrs. Purcell, Hicks, Tillett, and others are termed "slippery eels." Moreover, Lozovsky states emphatically that:

"the Soviet trade-union movement will never agree to any such non-interference, no matter how loudly the British General Council may howl for it."

While the British proposal for an unconditional conference with the Russians still stands, it is now defended mainly as a device for testing the sincerity of the Russian desire for genuine co-operation; and it is felt that to let it drop would make Anglo-Russian relations worse than ever.

* * *

The Cabinet will, it is said, be taking into consideration in the near future the whole question of Unemployment Insurance. For one thing, the finances of the scheme need overhauling; the Unemployment Fund, as a consequence of the coal stoppage, is now within £10 millions of its statutory limit of indebtedness. For another, Lord Blanesburgh's Committee is about to report, and important administrative changes are likely to result from its recommendations. More or less inspired rumours as to the line which the Committee will take are already in circulation. Their proposals are not to envisage, apparently, any sweeping alterations in the present basis of the scheme. They are not likely to propose interference either with the present occupational classification of insured persons (so often criticized as making for undue "rigidity") or with exist-

ing safeguards against a lowering of accepted wage-rates. But they will probably suggest that there should, in certain cases, be some reduction of benefits—possibly by a further extension of the discretionary powers which were restored to the Minister of Labour in 1925. They will probably propose also that a definite limit should be set to the period for which "extended" benefit (commonly called the "dole") can be continuously drawn. To fix such a limit would mean a closer assimilation of the English system to that of Germany, from which, in the first instance, it derived so much of its inspiration.

* * *

The arbitration on the wage claims of the Union of Post Office Workers and the counter-claims of the Postmaster-General may prove to be a classic case, not because of the magnitude of the Union's demands, but because of the principles which the two sides put forward as the proper criteria for the determination of wages. When the Union's claim was first presented, the Postmaster-General refused to negotiate unless the Union would categorically accept the principle that the wages of Post Office workers should be assessed by comparison with the current rates in other industries. The Union refused, and so eventually the claim went to the Civil Services Industrial Court for arbitration. On Monday, the Union's General Secretary based his case on two principles, the ability of the industry to pay, and the human needs of the workers. There are obvious difficulties in applying the former to a monopolistic industry like the Post Office, and the latter cannot be applied to the higher grades. If, as Mr. Bowen claims, there are many postal workers who receive less than the Rowntree Human Needs standard, that argument is inconclusive while many of the consumers of the Post Office services also receive less than that standard. On the other hand, the great difficulty in applying the principle of comparison with the wages in other industries, is that most of the postal workers are not recruited from the same social strata as bricklayers or engineers, whose work is very different. The Postmaster-General's case would be more logical if he made comparisons with clerical workers in the employment of profit-making concerns. So far this has not been attempted: indeed the available data is probably inadequate.

* * *

There has been during the week a decisive change of attitude on the part of the Washington Government towards Nicaragua. So far from the American Marines being withdrawn, they have been reinforced, more warships have been dispatched, and the neutral zones have been extended for the purpose of isolating more completely the Liberals under Dr. Sacasa. It is now, however, upon Mexico that the attention of Congress and the American Press is concentrated, for intervention in Mexico is now frankly treated by all parties as an important part of the attack upon the mine laws and the present Government of Mexico. President Calles is clearly not opposed to conciliation, since he proposed that the questions in dispute should be referred to The Hague Court—a proposal for which, it is important to note, approval is being expressed in certain powerful New York quarters. Mr. Kellogg, the American Secretary of State, has appeared before the Senate Committee of Foreign Relations in defence of his policy, but nothing has come of this encounter except a promise from Senator Borah to suspend his assault upon the State Department until after a censored report of the discussion has been made public. The most urgent question of the moment would seem to be that of the supply of arms to Mexican insurgents. Washington is

being urged to remove the embargo as a blow to the Calles Government. If this were done, and recognition withdrawn from President Calles, it is assumed that revolution in Mexico would follow immediately.

* * *

Lord Lytton, Governor of Bengal, has decided to meet the acute communal difficulties in the Presidency by nominating two Ministers, one a Hindu and the other a Mahomedan. In his inaugural address before the new Provincial Council the Governor explained that he was resolved to do nothing that could be construed by any opponent as evidence of favouritism towards either community. He is, however, being criticized for appointing only two Ministers, when the Constitution allows three or four. Lord Lytton replies that the Council may decide in favour of either number should it not be content with two. If three, one must be a European; if four, two would be Hindus and two Mahomedans. There are several points involved in this situation, the most important being that the diarchy system of government is now being restored in Bengal after a suspension of more than two years. It is generally assumed that if a Ministry can be set going again here there will be no great difficulty in any other province. The Bengal Swarajists, who have been hoping to prevent the formation of a Ministry, were beaten in the contest for the Presidency of the Council, held until last year by Sir Evan Cotton. The Raja of Santosh, a moderate Hindu, has secured the chair.

* * *

The good effect of the Imperial Conference may be traced in the remarkably friendly reception given to the Indian delegation to South Africa. The South African representatives at the round-table conference appear to have been genuinely desirous of giving effect to the new spirit embodied in General Herzog's acceptance of South Africa's presence in the British Commonwealth, and though no statement of results will be issued until the Indian delegation has returned and reported to its own Government, there is every reason to believe that a satisfactory agreement has been arrived at with regard to the status of Indian settlers in Union territory. The importance of a settlement of this long vexed controversy can hardly be exaggerated, and may extend considerably beyond the immediate question at issue. It will certainly relieve the British Government of a thorny problem, and it should react favourably on the prospects of an agreed solution of the native question in South Africa.

* * *

The problem of whether it is good or bad for children to be educated with the aid of a cinematograph has been raised again by the President of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters. In the minds of many of the people who discuss this matter there seems to be some confusion between instructional films shown in the theatres and films made for the definite purpose of assisting the teacher in the school. A recent report to the London County Council dealt with American experiments upon the latter lines. In New York the showing of films in theatres is regarded as recreational rather than instructional. But the "Director of Visual Education" (a suggestive title) in New York City has a small library of films supplementary to courses given in geography, physical geography, biology, domestic science, &c. Each term the schools fitted with cinematographs are communicated with, and the teachers supplied with the particular types of which they are in need. The Director's report states: "that the success so far obtained has been due to a careful choice of films and their presentation so as to correlate directly with the topic which has been studied."

DANGER AHEAD !

IN adjacent columns of last Saturday's *TIIMES*, there appeared reports of two speeches dealing with the prospect of legislation to amend the existing trade-union law. The one speech was delivered by the Attorney-General, Sir Douglas Hogg; the other by Mr. Arthur Henderson. Mr. Arthur Henderson spoke with a sincerity and concern that were the more apparent because his words were moderate and measured. He issued a "warning and appeal" to the Government to leave the trade-union law alone. He made this appeal in the name of industrial peace, of the need for improved industrial relations as an indispensable condition of national economic recovery—a matter on which he had spoken at length, and wisely, on the previous day. Legislation, such as the Government was being pressed to undertake, would be "not only a political blunder, but a fatal mistake":—

"It would be looked upon as a serious challenge to the trade union movement. It would be regarded as class legislation of the worst type, and could only be described as a profound error of judgment, as it would certainly have a serious effect on the restoration of our economic life."

Sir Douglas Hogg's speech made it clear, if indeed the point was doubtful before, that the matter has passed beyond the stage of "pressure" upon the Government, and that trade-union legislation must be expected as the principal Parliamentary feature of the year. He, too, issued an appeal:—

"I have no doubt, during the next session of Parliament, we are in for a difficult, prolonged, and it may even be a bitter fight. I would ask the Conservative Party—I would ask of all citizens—to put their country first and party second, for solid support, approval, and understanding of the Government proposal."

"Support, approval, understanding"—in that order! The appeal to Conservatives changed instantly into an appeal to all good citizens to place their country first and their party second! Clearly we must absolve the Attorney-General from any suspicion of having polished his peroration. But the passage is not less significant because it is neither premeditated nor very coherent. Ministers are becoming alive to the danger indicated by Mr. Arthur Henderson. They are beginning to see that the legislation they contemplate may have the worst possible effects in destroying the possibility of improved relations between Capital and Labour, in dividing society sharply and bitterly along class lines, and in strengthening the appeal of extremist propaganda. They are beginning to see this, and it makes them uncomfortable; for, to do them justice, probably the last thing they desire is to inflame class-feeling in any way; their only motive in the matter is to satisfy Conservative sentiment, which insists that something must be done about the trade unions, without knowing very clearly what. Unhappily, they are now so deeply committed to do "something" that it is not easy to see how the mischief can be averted. Once again, the Government is on the point of committing a grave error of statesmanship, not as the result of any failure of goodwill, nor even under the influence of false ideas, but from sheer feebleness and lack of grasp.

It is difficult for the middle-class public to appreciate how serious the danger is. For the matter is one

which the different classes approach from fundamentally different points of view, and on which these differences of outlook, differences which are quite independent of particular political or economic opinions, are of decisive importance. To the average middle-class man, the case for some amendment of the trade-union law is clear. The existing position is full of anomalies. It is notorious that the Trade Disputes Act offends the sense of propriety of every lawyer. The trade-union funds are completely immune from actions for tort, so that, to quote an example with which much play is made, an individual who is run over by a motor-car belonging to a trade union cannot sue the union for damages. Again, the Act gives complete immunity to all persons, including union officials, from liability for "inducing" breaches of contract. These provisions are both of them in the sharpest possible conflict with the general principles of English law; and so high an authority as Professor Geldart, who had decided sympathies with the trade unions, described the former as "clearly indefensible," and the latter as "one of the entirely unjustifiable provisions of the Act." Then, it is argued, in the light of experience, the sanction given in the Trade Disputes Act to "peaceful persuasion" is tantamount to the legalization of intimidation.

Such anomalous legal privileges, the average middle-class man proceeds, cannot seriously be defended on their merits. They might be tolerated and excused, if the trade unions were weak and harmless bodies, which it was desirable in the public interest to encourage and strengthen; and excuses of this nature were put forward, with some plausibility, when the Trade Disputes Act was passed. But the trade unions require no special favouritism to-day. They have acquired a most formidable power—and have shown a dangerous disposition to use it to the public injury. This disposition, which has been growing steadily throughout the last two decades, culminated last year in the General Strike. Surely so dramatically anti-social a proceeding justifies an overhauling of the law. Is it reasonable, is it even tolerable that the Trade Disputes Act should apply to a general strike, and that the trade unions should be able to shelter behind such singular and exceptional legal privileges while doing their utmost to bring the life of the community to a standstill? It is doubtful, in view of Sir John Simon's speeches and the support given to them by a dictum of Mr. Justice Astbury, whether the Trade Disputes Act can be held to apply to a general strike; but surely it is desirable to clear all doubts away. Surely it is desirable that, in Sir Douglas Hogg's words:—

"We should have it laid down in the Statute-book, as already pronounced in the Law Courts, that the general strike is an illegal crime against the State, that those who indulge in it are engaged in a seditious conspiracy, and that any organization which foments it is liable to the uttermost farthing for the loss which it involves."

And, while we are about it, is it not a common-sense proceeding to reconsider the trade-union law as a whole and put it on a more orderly and satisfactory basis?

This does not imply, the argument proceeds, any hostility to trade unions, or any desire to impair their legitimate rights. Legislation, calculated to weaken

the trade unions in the discharge of their ordinary functions, or even in the conduct of strikes in an orderly and lawful way, would certainly be ill-advised. The text of the Government's Bill must, therefore, be awaited, before any opinion on its merits is pronounced. But meanwhile there is no sign that the Government contemplates anything very drastic or in the least vindictive. If it confines itself to moderate reforms, aiming at removing glaring anomalies in the present law, there will be no justification for bitterness or ill-feeling. Doubtless such a measure will be misrepresented as an attack on trade unionism, and attempts will be made to stir up working-class resentment. That will be unfortunate, but the blame will lie with those who so misrepresent the measure. No fair-minded or public-spirited man should lend his countenance to such an agitation, which indeed will be so clearly unreasonable that the damage done to social relations should not, we may hope, prove very formidable.

In the above paragraphs we have set out what we believe to be a very common attitude as fairly as we can. It is, in our judgment, as mistaken and as dangerous as it is plausible. It is difficult to answer it effectively, because it is definite, compact, and based on facts familiar to the professional and business classes and on considerations to which they readily respond. The opposing arguments are by no means so definite, they do not form a "tidy" case, and they rest on facts which are largely unfamiliar and uncongenial to middle-class opinion.

In the first place, it is important to remember that trade unionists have very little confidence in the impartiality of British Courts of Law, and that their distrust is the outcome of a long history of surprising judicial decisions and questionable special jury verdicts. This is one of the facts which are peculiarly unpalatable to middle-class opinion. We know that the pride that we feel in the administration of British justice is not misplaced; we know that our judges are absolutely disinterested and incorruptible, and inspired by so exalted a tradition of professional honour that we can rely on British prize-courts in time of war to deal out even-handed justice. We know that our criminal procedure is marked by a scrupulous, and, in some respects, almost a quixotic, determination to secure fair-play for those accused of crime. We are so conscious of these things that to many it seems almost an offence and an outrage to hint at any doubt as to the impartiality of British justice. Yet, after all, no man can be sure of being impartial when his prejudices are strongly stirred; and few things stir stronger prejudices than a trade dispute. Certain it is that the Taff Vale Judgment and the Osborne Judgment were honestly regarded throughout the trade-union world as flagrant miscarriages of justice, and came as a surprise and a puzzle to every student of social history. And these judgments were added, as we have said, to a long series of special jury verdicts, some of which hardly left room for doubt that even-handed justice was not administered.

Now it is this experience which lies behind the Trade Disputes Act of 1906, and is the real and substantial defence for its various anomalies. The governing motive of the trade-union members in pressing for the absolute immunity of funds was the desire to avoid loopholes for litigation, because they believed that they did not get fair play in the courts. A limited immunity, such as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Government first proposed, was objectionable to them on the one ground that it presented loopholes for litigation. To avert this danger, the legislation must be simple and unambiguous; therefore the immunity must be absolute and sweeping. Such was the argument which

carried the day in 1906; and it is highly relevant to the amending measure which the present Government contemplates. It is very difficult, for example, to see how general strikes can be made illegal, without drawing distinctions, the application of which in particular cases must be doubtful, and without, accordingly, exposing unions, which have acted in all good faith, to liability for heavy damages if a special jury, under the influence of strong prejudice, should distort the law. Thus, if the Government succeeds in producing a plan, as we daresay they may, which seems fair and reasonable on paper, it by no means follows that the trade unions will be merely factious and unreasonable if they oppose it strenuously and bitterly.

We must confine ourselves in the present article to indicating one other factor that must be taken into account. Middle-class psychology and working-class psychology differ in nothing more profoundly than in the sense of constitutional propriety, and in respect for high-sounding constitutional maxims. Tell the average working-man that a general strike is a great mistake; and, after the experience of last year, he will be ready to agree. Tell him that frequent strikes and an atmosphere of constant danger of strikes are highly prejudicial to the general welfare, and that, despite all the assertions of the propagandists of class-welfare, his interests are bound up with the general welfare; and, again, he will listen, and most likely he will agree. Urge him on these grounds, as Mr. Baldwin did two years ago, to approach the problems of industry in a new spirit, and to co-operate more whole-heartedly with his employer for the common advantage of their industry, and you will find him, as Mr. Baldwin found him, in a mood to respond, though indeed you must not expect that the response will be strong enough to steer you safely through every difficulty that your own mistakes of policy may create. But tell him that, by taking part in a general strike last year, he has committed high treason against the State and violated the fundamental principles of the Constitution, and you have him inarticulate, perhaps, but unimpressed. Tell him that many of the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act are in flagrant conflict with the noble principles of English law, and you elicit no response whatever. High constitutional principles, high juridical principles, mean very little to him; he is somewhat suspicious of the sound of them. And if, in the name of these principles, you proceed to play tricks with the trade-union law, he will certainly not believe you, when you assure him elaborately that your only object is to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and to clear away minor abuses, and that you are being scrupulously careful to safeguard all his legitimate rights. On the contrary, he will be disposed to think that those agitators are right who have been telling him for years that the Government and the employers are engaged in a conspiracy to break the power and to reduce the standard of living of the working-class.

Some such reaction seems to us almost inevitable, whatever the precise terms of the new legislation may be. What useful purpose can be served by provoking it? What does it matter that the law relating to the conduct of trade disputes should be anomalous? Trade disputes are, in their essential nature, anomalous things, and it is as idle to aim at a neat, tidy system of law for their regulation, as it is to aim at a satisfactory code of rules for the regulation of international war. The true aim in each case should be to diminish the likelihood of war, to build up a constructive system of co-operation. And, if we make this our first object, we shall be well advised to respond to Mr. Arthur Henderson's appeal, and leave the trade-union law alone.

AN OPEN LETTER TO LORD EUSTACE PERCY

SIR.—The Press recently published a letter from you to Sir Henry Hadow dealing with the Report of the Consultative Committee on the Education of the Adolescent, and now the *Times* reports that at the North of England Education Conference your Presidential Address "was attentively listened to by a large audience and was warmly cheered. No dissentient interruption was heard." Lest you should believe that in fact no dissentient views exist, we think it only right to tell you how your pronouncements strike us as teachers. Sceptical as we have always been of the sincerity of your party's expressed enthusiasm for the education of the children of the nation, we did hope to find in you the courage to honour the office you hold. Now we are dismayed.

First, we are ashamed that instead of giving your official blessing to the extremely suggestive report of the Consultative Committee, you show such haste to nullify its one really bold recommendation, viz., the raising of the school age to fifteen "after a lapse of five years from the date of the Report—that is to say, at the beginning of the school year 1932." You profess anxiety lest the peace of mind of Local Education Authorities should be disturbed, by this forecast of legislation affecting their "programmes," but surely the date, 1932, falls outside the programmes recently submitted? It is true that some Authorities might be disturbed by the mere suggestion of educational developments, but was it really necessary to assure these Die-Hards that no further provision need be made for children of fourteen years of age? Was it too dangerous to let administrators even *read* the Report? They certainly will not read it after your intimation that no notice need be taken of it. Nor will your letter commend itself to those enlightened Authorities whose members at your urgent request have cut down their real "programmes"; even they are not prone to rush ahead of the Board's Policy, and we wonder why any suggestion to take immediate action to prepare for the more adequate education of the adolescent in 1932 could not have received a discouraging reply through the secretariat. Indeed, a polite formula printed on a new set of buff forms might have been devised to reject any hasty proposals from over-impulsive progressives. We, sir, recognize that economy, even in the most vital services, is sometimes the urgent duty of the nation: that is why we have submitted to decreased staffing and to the postponement of many overdue reforms in the schools; but there are extremists (Left) who, having a blind zeal for education, will read the Report, or extracts from it, and will find in your letter fresh confirmation of their belief that no good or sincere thing can come out of the old order.

Further, we protest against the use that the Alarmist Behold-the-Bolshevik section of your party is making of you. We agree with the writer of the leading article in the *Times* that in your Liverpool speech not only did you "touch upon many aspects of the great problem" of education, but that "one most important passage was a new departure in a serious speech by a Minister of the Crown," and we are convinced that the real effects of your remarks will be somewhat as follows:—

- Indignation among all right-minded men and women in the teaching profession at the threat made against freedom of the spirit.

- Rejoicing among the "extremists" (Left) and a new and wonderful limelight for the hitherto insignificant Teachers' Labour League.

3. Encouragement of the most foolish and harmful methods of celebrating Empire Day, Armistice Day, Nelson Day. Do you not realize how bitter are the comments of unemployed and disabled ex-Service men on the wearisome futilities of some school celebrations?

4. Alienation of the "Working Classes" (whom your Party desires so earnestly to enrol), because you hint at disapproval of the Maintenance Grants that have made the higher education of the poorer boys and girls a notable feature of democratic progress in some important areas.

It is our habit to make a mental note of the ideas in our pupils' essays, and among "the many points touched on in your speech" we find Circular 1858—effort and sacrifice—Economics, civics, and practical work—and then, with an added warmth, patriotism and (the sequence rather astonished us) propaganda (Red) and consequent discontent; there follow what we call in the jargon of our trade "copious examples" with references to Gordon, Armistice Day, Mr. Charles Trevelyan, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Empire Day, the National Anthem, Labour Day, and certain improprieties of Education Committees. Finally, and most amazing, a peroration on Bible Teaching! We agree heartily with your statement that "Nearly every teacher wants to keep political controversy out of the schools, to preserve his pupils so far as he can from 'the strife of tongues,'" but we have not met "those irrepressible fanatics who vamp up scurrilous school magazines for circulation in the schools and form children up outside the canteen to sing the Red Flag in times of industrial conflict." We have much more often been circularized to work for the increase of "Imperialistic teaching" than to abolish it. However, we agree that "this (the Red) sort of propaganda is abhorrent to nearly all teachers—and has been repeatedly condemned by the official representatives of the profession," but we go further and say that "all political propaganda in schools is abhorrent to all teachers worthy of the name," and British parents, knowing this, are less perturbed than your speech will lead Russians in Moscow to believe. It is clear that you object to Red propaganda, but we have an uneasy feeling that you may not dislike the Imperial and other brands. For our part, like Lord Fisher, we would "sack the lot" who cannot leave us to teach in peace some bit of what we ourselves have learnt to enjoy. We are quite content, and although each of us has his peculiar faith in his own subject—Greek or Chemistry, Mathematics or History, or even Economics—the effort to be tolerant towards our colleagues' enthusiasms is part of the fun of our job. But in propaganda we see no fun at all, even though we have met the advocates of Mr. Maxse's doctrines much more frequently than those of Mr. Cook's, and our paper baskets are more often filled with Yellow or Red, White, and Blue than with Red publications and offers of "lectures and addresses." Would it not be possible, sir, for you to send out a new Circular ORTC to all publishers, printers, postmasters, &c., to protect schoolmasters from the free printed propaganda and offers of oratorical appeals of any party whatsoever?

We agree that there is something wrong in "schools where children are taught to depreciate soldiers like Havelock and Gordon," but the tenor of your remarks makes us wonder whether you conceive it to be part of our job to teach children to *admire* selected soldiers and statesmen, martyrs and rebels. We hope not: and in any case it cannot be done. The British schoolboy, like his nation, will not be bullied and he will form his own opinion of all the worthies presented to him by teacher or text-book. It is just the same in literature, while we can help to unfold the character of the hero, we are not so foolish as to expect our pupils to accept our heroes as theirs. You state that

some "few schools are now coming to refuse to attend the village celebration on Armistice Day." There must be a long and involved story behind so overt an act of rebellion in an English village, and our curiosity is whetted. Dare we hope for at least the name of the village?

"A great political party passes resolutions calling upon Labour members of the education authorities to take steps to prevent the further celebration of Empire Day. . . . Let us face facts. . . . A teacher whose mind is exposed, as all our minds are exposed, to the infection of vague abstractions, may be innocently misled into error by phrases about 'Imperialism' (or Bolshevism?), . . . may even be found, as I fear has been the case with some few head teachers, forbidding, or, at least, discouraging the singing of the National Anthem in the school."

"If a local authority circularises headmasters instructing them to expound to the pupils the meaning of Labour Day, preparatory to holiday excursions to listen to speeches in Hyde Park, the Board of Education may be unable to object, for the holiday is perfectly lawful, the excursions are unofficial, and a discourse on Labour Day may be as *innocuous* as a lesson on Cobden or Wilberforce (why not Gordon?), but what must be the effect on a teacher who, under great difficulties, is trying to do his duty?"

With a passing apology to Cobden and Wilberforce, we wish to protest against the muddled thinking in the last quotation, and then we shall try to deal with the general question of "celebrations," which is of serious interest to schools. First we submit that no proof is given that this teacher is "working under great difficulties." However much he may hate Labour Day, has he never heard of the Historical Method? Next, if the "holiday excursion" is "unofficial," in what sense must the instruction be "preparatory" to it? Again, Hyde Park narrows this charge to London and the Home Counties, and we should like to see one at least of the circulars. The singing or neglect of the National Anthem is a domestic matter. But is there a danger that (in the near future) Grant will be withheld if "God Save the King" is not sung regularly at every school function? And, if so, what is the minimum required to qualify as patriots—a few bars, one verse, two verses, or what an enthusiast described as "the lot"? We have met Americans who attached very grave importance to the question, but we agree with your earlier remarks that "Especially in this country do we need to bring children up to patriotism through the performance of practical duties." And we repudiate any suggestion that the patriotism of a school may be assessed by the number of times it sings the National Anthem.

We pass to the Days—Armistice, Empire, Labour, and, we would add, Ascension. Of the first we would only say that as the sacrifice and sorrow were shared throughout the nation, so is the respect for the anniversary of the cessation of the slaughter of men. We regret your allusion to any discord on this Day, not, we believe, a general school holiday. But behind the accusations and discontents that surge round the other days there lies that process of provocation, resistance, and counter-demonstration which too often mars human relationships.

We added Ascension Day advisedly, for we have reason to believe that the parson's claim for this new holiday has strengthened the determination of another section to recognize Labour Day. As a people we cling to our old habits and have little patience with innovations (e.g., we love the Lord Mayor's Coach, and we are still not sure about Daylight Saving). Now Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, August Bank Holiday, are all well established "days off" to Tory and Labour, Christian, Jew, and Unbeliever: but anything new, like Empire Day and Ascension Day, seems to some section of the community most un-British. The Labour parent goes to work, why shouldn't his child go to school? And in any case, if you are going to find new

sacred days to celebrate, he, as a citizen of a free country, will work and vote for his religious festival, May 1st. Teachers are found in every political party, but we believe that the feeling of the majority is against the intrusion of these days with their special celebrations: the fact is we would rather teach history or geography or mathematics. But even more than interruptions to our work, we dislike the publicity given to the errors of judgment of what you yourself term a small minority.

We beg you to stop these harmful activities; to find courage to stand for education, and that alone; to free yourself from the dictates of those who neither care nor understand; and to do your part to raise education above the warfare of Party Politics.

We are, sir, Yours, &c.,

L., T., & L.

COVENT GARDEN AND BEECHAM'S PILLS

ABILL is to be presented to Parliament to enable Beecham's Estates and Pills, Limited, to move Covent Garden Market from its present site to the site of the Foundling Hospital in Bloomsbury. The Bill raises problems of both national and local importance. Not only is it proposed to destroy the Foundling Hospital and to utilize two of the finest and oldest squares in London as part of a public market, but it is also proposed to retain Beecham's Estates and Pills, Limited, as the sole market authority of the largest fruit and flower market in the world. If the Bill is passed, two more squares will be added to the number of open spaces which the present majority on the L.C.C. has allowed to be built upon during the last two years—almost without protest, and certainly without constructive suggestions for their preservation. The amenities of a very desirable residential neighbourhood will be spoiled, and land which might be used as a residential annex to the University of London with a view to final development as part of the University site will be scheduled for ever as a noisy and perhaps squalid market. The Beecham's Estates and Pills, Limited, will be given the opportunity to increase its rents and its tolls and to extend the basis on which the tolls are levied, without being put under any obligation to act as a less incompetent market authority than it is at present.

In recent years much attention has been given by departmental committees and local bodies to the London wholesale markets problem. A proposal to move Covent Garden Market makes it necessary for Parliament to consider the following questions: Upon what grounds is it desirable to move Covent Garden Market? Is it desirable to move it to the Foundling Hospital site? Is not the present private monopoly of the market an anachronism, and should not the management of the market be granted to some public or semi-public authority, which would control the market in the interest of its users?

In 1668 a Charter was granted to the Earl of Bedford "to hold and keep a market in a certain place commonly called the Piazza, near the Church of St. Paul, Covent Garden . . . for the buying and selling of all kinds of Fruits, Roots, and Herbs whatsoever, together with all Liberties, Free Customs, Tolls, Stallage, Piccage, and all other Profits, Advantages, and Emoluments whatsoever to the like market in any wise belonging or appertaining." From that date the market has been expanding. A further important Act "for the Improvement and Regulation of Covent Garden Market" was passed in 1828. In consideration of certain improvements promised the Duke of Bed-

ford was then permitted to increase his tolls. Improvements costing up to £70,000 were carried out as a result of the Act, but since then the market authority has done little in the market but use its authority for the exaction of tolls, steadily ignoring all suggestions for further improvement.

The market extends far beyond the original chartered area of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It is computed that the business of the market is carried on in more than 12 acres of the surrounding property. The fact that so much market work has to be done outside the chartered area has rendered a private corporation impotent to manage the market. The Dukes of Bedford appeared to realize this. On several occasions they offered to sell the market to the Metropolitan Board of Works and the City Corporation, and, it is believed, also to the L.C.C. But these authorities were neither ready to pay the price which the Dukes demanded nor ready to face the great expenditure consequent upon the improvements desired. And so, failing a public purchaser, the estate was hawked round the streets of speculative finance. Mr. Mallaby-Deeley paid the deposit, provoking a poem in *PUNCH* from the pen of Owen Seaman, but omitted to complete the purchase. Sir Joseph Beecham also paid the deposit; he died before the purchase was complete; but, through his executors, the market has now passed into the hands of the Beecham Estates and Pills, Limited, who have since added the Foundling Hospital site to their possessions. In 1923 the Linlithgow Committee reported that "the national character of the market demanded that action of some kind should be taken to improve present conditions," and "that searching investigation should also be made into the legality and incidence of existing charges." To which can be added the comments in the report of Sir John Hunt to the Westminster City Council that "such a private monopoly to-day is an anachronism," and that the market bristles with illegalities.

For a long time attempts have been made to draw attention to the maladministration of Covent Garden Market, but the suggestion that it should be moved for traffic and town-planning reasons is comparatively new; and the case for the change is far from clear. A site in a central position is essential; and, for Covent Garden, it can at least be claimed that the neighbourhood is in no sense residential, so that no one's sleep is disturbed by the constant rumbling of market carts in the early morning. On the face of it, it would seem as though the construction of a new main road through the present market area might do much to remove traffic congestion in the Strand; but the bridges lie at the root of the congestion problem, and the Waterloo Bridge Commission of last year expressed the view that it was "not at all clear that a removal of the market to some other site would necessarily relieve the traffic congestion in connection with the bridges." The case ought to be clear and strong, before the interest of the traders, in retaining a site where they have been accustomed to buy and sell for hundreds of years, is overborne. It is arguable that the best solution of the problem lies in the development of regional markets, on the one hand, which will gradually relieve Covent Garden of much of its local trade, and in the institution of a proper market authority, on the other, which will secure an improvement of grading and packing of home produce, and thus establish more widely the habit of selling by sample. If, in a word, Covent Garden could be properly organized for its true rôle of a central, and purely central, market, the objections to the retention of the present site might largely disappear.

But if the desirability of moving the market be conceded, what are we to say of the proposal to transfer it to

the Foundling Hospital Estate? The new area proposed includes many of the houses and all the gardens and land in both Mecklenburgh and Brunswick Squares. In spite of Clause 5 of the Bill, which reads that "the Company shall not erect any building over the site of Brunswick Square Garden and Mecklenburgh Square Garden," these gardens will not only be shorn of all their beauty—they will be rendered as valueless as open spaces as the "Piazza" garden in the present market site. If the Bill is carried the market will be exempt from the London Building Acts and Town-planning Act of 1923. The right to refuse L.C.C. Inspectors permission to enter the area would be granted. There would be nothing to prevent the company putting up skyscrapers, and powers to replan the area would be very difficult to obtain. For traffic arrangements the company proposes to construct six underground railways enclosed in single line tunnels, only four feet wider than the old City and South London Railway. Of these, five connect with the down-line at St. Pancras and can only be intended to take produce away from the market. The other connects with the up-line at St. Pancras—there is no suggestion of underground connection with any of the southern railways. Not one of the railways need be built. If the railways are not completed in five years there is nothing in the Bill to compel the company to complete them at all. But even if the railways are completed, they will only take a fraction of the traffic of the market, and the remainder will either add to the congestion in Gray's Inn Road or disturb the quiet residential character of the neighbouring streets. The superiority of the Foundling Hospital Site for the market over the present site under proper administration is, to say the least, not as self-evident as it is the business of the promoters of the Bill to make out.

There are other sites, such as the St. Pancras and Somerstown site, and the site south of the river, near Waterloo Station, to which the market might be moved, if it were definitely decided that it was in the public interest to move it. These would not entail building over an area already well planned. No open spaces would be destroyed, no fine houses would be demolished, no university and no residential quarter destroyed.

The projected Bill raises an exceedingly important issue. We shall not dwell on the value of the London squares—on the peculiar grace and dignity, which make them a distinguished exception to the general characterlessness of English towns. They represent a genuine achievement in town-planning, and we may be very satisfied if results as good emerge from the town-planning activities of the present age. Town-planning is now one of the slogans of the hour. We must not, it is agreed on all hands, allow our future urban development to proceed aimlessly and chaotically, as we did in the nineteenth century; and at this moment, town-planning schemes are being prepared all over the country in accordance with the Act of 1923. While we are fumbling with these new projects, are we to sit by supinely and allow the old achievements to be destroyed? Surely this is a matter which concerns the L.C.C. and Parliament. If the matter were considered from a strictly public standpoint, if each conflicting consideration, the importance of diminishing traffic congestion, the value of the squares, and the like, were weighed in the scales, it is most unlikely, we think, that this particular scheme would be approved. But in any case the change is one which ought only to be made after the problem has been viewed as a whole in this spirit by some competent public authority. It is not a matter on which Beecham's Estates and Pills, Limited, can be accepted as a satisfactory judge.

LIFE AND POLITICS

I SEE that debate still goes on as to what is meant by Mr. Lloyd George's famous offer. The position as I understand it can be packed into a few sentences. Mr. Lloyd George's proposal was that the income from his fund, over and above what is needed to run the Land and Nation League, should be available for the headquarters machinery of the party. As the sum so available would be insufficient for all the requirements of headquarters, it was agreed that the deficiency should be made up by drafts upon the capital of the fund. To this offer the well-known conditions were originally attached, but it is this offer which still holds the field. The conditions, as everyone knows, were afterwards withdrawn. The offer, which the Administrative Committee will have before it once more on the 19th, is unconditional. The Negotiating Committee itself suggested in its second report that the Organization Committee should be reconstituted, this being, in the opinion of most Liberals, the only honourable and common-sense course. The bitterest enemy of Mr. Lloyd George would hardly maintain that party unity can be obtained by any other means. Every dispassionate person knows quite well that a plain obligation—not a bargain but an obligation—rests on the party to accompany acceptance of financial aid with a revision of the executive machinery which will combine all its activities, under unified and therefore efficient control. There is no mystery about it, and the one thing that seems, to the outsider, impossible is that the offer should be accepted under "conditions" imposed by those who want nothing of Mr. Lloyd George except his money.

* * *

To some people it is a matter of intolerable exasperation ever to find Mr. Lloyd George in the right. I do not pretend to be a diplomatic pundit, but as a fairly attentive looker-on I think that the TIMES is wrong and mischievous in its gratuitous rebuke to M. Briand for his interpretation of the Cannes Conference; and I think it failed in its reply to the letter in which Mr. Lloyd George came to M. Briand's rescue. The Cannes Conference was not an affair of the Allies alone. To take one fact only; Herr Rathenau was there and agreed with the European pact of non-aggression which was then proposed. The pan-European principle was not merely what the TIMES calls a peroration, it was an integral part of the memorandum of agreement. Such a pan-European treaty, which was to include Russia, may have been jumping too far for European psychology at the time. One may have one's doubts even about that. At any rate it was a broader policy than that of Locarno, which, if the truth may be told, proved to be rather niggling and pettifogging in the actual working out. What killed the Cannes Conference was the *bouleversement* in French domestic politics, which threw M. Briand out of office and put M. Poincaré in.

* * *

Why does Mr. Baldwin, thinking aloud in his wistful way, say that his is "the loneliest job on earth"? Well, it is literally true that the Prime Minister has the loneliest of jobs because his is the ultimate responsibility. I was talking about this with an authority on the Constitution. The Prime Minister, he said, and thereby disturbed my notions of the collective responsibility of the Cabinet, "is the only adviser of the King. He can call for the resignation of all the Cabinet if he is sure that he has the House of Commons behind him. He is in a permanent majority, and his decision alone goes. He is everybody, and his responsibility is a real and personal one." I suppose this ruling will be contested, but there it is. Another and perhaps more plausible explanation of why Mr. Baldwin talks just

now of his loneliness is suggested to me. It is well known that he is opposed by the majority of his Cabinet on anti-Trade Union legislation. His judgment is clearly opposed to doing anything important to interfere with the Unions, but the Birkenheads and Churchills are against him. He is therefore lonely in a special sense at the moment.

* * *

It interests and amuses me to hear that Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister is to speak at the first London meeting next week of the new movement towards removing the trade barriers of Europe. Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, the hero of the Safeguarding of Industries, is the most simple-minded Protectionist in the Government, with the possible exception of Mr. Baldwin. The movement which he is (presumably) to bless is a new international campaign to pull down the steadily rising tariff walls which obstruct trade. The explanation of Sir Philip's attendance may lie in the use of the phrase "trade barriers"—an example of calling a thing by another name to make it look different. A Tory Protectionist would shy away from a Free Trade conspiracy to destroy tariffs; but he may be found enthusiastically advocating the removal of trade barriers—even those he has laboured himself to raise. This is just the man to be taken in by a distinction without a difference.

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The recent enterprise of this journal in holding a questionnaire of religious beliefs pales into insignificance beside the contemporary effort in America. In the States they do these things properly. The Church Advertising Department of the International Association is running it, and may be safely left to Tell the World, especially as the results are calculated to bring a blush to the cheek of the British patriot. "Census Discloses America is Devout," trumpets the NEW YORK TIMES headline. "Questionnaire in 150 newspapers brings Admission of Belief in God by 89 per cent." "English Rate Is Lower—In London NATION'S Survey 1,024 of 1,849 Denied Belief in a Personal Deity." Please let us have no more cheap sneers about "God's Own Country." Look at the figures.

* * *

I had the privilege the other day of meeting Dr. Moffatt, the "notorious" Dr. Moffatt, "the man who has destroyed the poetry of the Bible." I have not yet spent £1 on his Bible rendered in ordinary speech, but I have sampled it, since I enjoyed my talk with this modest and humorous scholar. Of course, Dr. Moffatt, a man of the highest culture, has no quarrel with the magnificent Elizabethan English of our Bible. He is no iconoclast; he is an elucidator. Elizabethan English is to all intents and purposes a foreign language which must be learnt before we can enter with understanding into the inheritance. On the same afternoon I was wandering round the splendid show of Belgian art at the Academy, and there I was fascinated by a little Breughel the Younger, which might serve as an illustration of Dr. Moffatt's labours. It was an "Adoration of the Magi." The painter has translated the scene into everyday terms. It is a Flemish village in the snow, and the Holy Family, plain, peasant folks, are sheltering under a rough penthouse in the street. The wise men worship the Child, and outside there is a sort of queue of simple, even grotesque, villagers waiting their turn. On the stream in the foreground an urchin is sailing in a home-made boat. The thing is extraordinarily touching in its homeliness. In the same spirit, I take it, Dr. Moffatt tells the Bible story in the terms of everyday.

* * *

THE MODERN PEPYS: "As the dance proceeded the people got more and more excited and several real fights took place, one Galla Chief being killed and another seriously

wounded. Dr. Scott and Mr. Omer Cooper then thought it time to retire and returned to camp well pleased with this interesting interlude in their expedition."—(TIMES, January 3rd.) And so to bed.

* * *

We were talking round the table about the literary whitewashing of notorious characters, e.g., Mr. Shane Leslie's George IV. A small member of the family summed up the discussion: "Giving him a good character is like taking his character away."

* * *

The all-conquering Cinema, I see, has brought about the downfall of the Empire. The old raffish life went long ago. The "lounges" and "promenades," the last battle-fields of Puritanism, are memories, and dingy memories at that. The charm of such haunts came from the imagination of venturing youth, making landfall on the seacoasts of Bohemia. Still, one may spare a middle-aged sigh for the vanished crowd of mingled outlaws and gilded youth that thronged those places of tainted twilight. Coming up from the country twenty years ago the provincial on holiday would venture, marvelling and excited, into these mysterious haunts of Sin. Boredom was the reward. The Young Man about Town, for whom these places were maintained, hardly exists nowadays. His post-war equivalent goes about town with his partner—usually his dancing partner—the Young Woman about Town. The entertainments that catered for the solitary young man have died; and now London's night life is shared by the sexes. London is a cleaner place for the departure of the queer old licence, but not a duller place, for there was never anything but devastating stupidity in the life of the bar and the "bitter barmaid fading fast." The films are comparatively cheerful by comparison—even the comic ones.

* * *

If the following anecdote is not true, well, it ought to be. A visitor going round M— prison found Bottomley making sacks. "Good afternoon, Mr. Bottomley—sewing?" "No—reaping."

KAPPA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAD PAINT

SIR,—In the issue of December 11th of THE NATION, there appeared a letter from Mr. A. John Hugh Smith on the subjects of the resignation of Sir Thomas Legge and the Act relating to the use of white lead in paint.

I understand from this letter that the agitation for the total prohibition of white lead in paint had been "revived by M. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, who, in 1923, with a director of the largest zinc pigment manufacturing company in Europe sitting next to him on the platform, spoke of the draft Convention as a step towards total prohibition." And Mr. A. John Hugh Smith asks why Sir Thomas Legge did not resign "when M. Albert Thomas tore up the peace which he had negotiated."

As a matter of fact, Sir Thomas Legge had no reason to think that I had broken any agreement regarding the matter.

Though one sentence of my speech at the meeting referred to, in which I explained how and why the White Lead Convention was inferior to the French legislation (which prohibits the use of white lead for both exterior and interior painting), may have seemed to suggest that I shared the regret which supporters of the French law felt because the Convention did not require total prohibition, nevertheless the whole of my arguments were in support of the ratification of the Convention as it stood. Further, all my efforts since 1921 have been directed towards securing ratification of the Convention which embodies the compromise agreed to at Geneva in 1921. As a result of these efforts thirteen States have ratified the Convention.

Mr. A. John Hugh Smith is merely continuing the campaign of misrepresentation which began when the question of the use of white lead in paint was placed upon the agenda of the International Labour Conference. One of the methods adopted in this campaign is to insinuate that the International Labour Office is acting in collusion with the manufacturers of zinc white. The statement that the director of a most important zinc white company was seated at my side on the platform on March 3rd, 1923, goes beyond the stage of insinuation. I can place at your disposition a photograph of the full platform of that meeting, which shows the following, left to right: Dr. René Sand, secretary of the League of Red Cross Societies, who organized the meeting; Mr. Arthur Fontaine, chairman of the governing body of the International Labour Office; the Chief Rabbi, M. Lévy; Professor Roger; M. J.-L. Breton, ex-Minister; Commandant Mollard, representing the President of the French Republic; M. Paul Painlevé, ex-President of the Council; M. Albert Peyronnet, Minister of Labour, chairman of the meeting; Sir Claude Hill, president of the League of Red Cross Societies; M. Paul Appell, rector of the University of Paris; M. Georges Risler; M. Albert Thomas; M. Justin Godart, ex-Minister of Labour; Professor Balthasar; Dr. Brouardel; Pastor Boury; M. Mignac, delegate of the Grand Lodge of France; the representative of the President of the Council of Ministers; M. Ch. Picquenard, Director of Labour.

Among these I cannot discover any manufacturer of zinc white. I challenge Mr. A. John Hugh Smith to indicate the man whose witting or unwitting accomplice I am said to be.

It is not for me to discuss the other arguments put forward in your columns by Mr. A. John Hugh Smith. But my respect for English public opinion and my sense of the responsibility of my position as the head of a great international institution make it incumbent upon me to request you to publish this letter.—Yours faithfully,

ALBERT THOMAS.

International Labour Office, Geneva.

January 6th, 1927.

VIVISECTION AND THE EXPERT

SIR,—May I rush in where Browning and Ruskin have already been trodden on, and engage the attention of the triumphant Professor Hill? I can hope for no better fate than theirs, but even to be associated with them for a moment in the mind and beneath the feet of a Professor would be something.

Let me begin by admitting all the disabilities from which my fellow-writers suffered, and which they tried, in vain, to hide from Professor Hill. I know nothing of the routine of vivisection; I do not know why a dog collaborates in these interesting experiments more naturally than a rabbit; I have no idea where, or what, a pancreas is. In short, I am not an expert. The world, however, was not made entirely for experts. One often reads some such paragraph as this in the papers: "Mr. Smith was operated upon yesterday for xyz-it. The operation was completely successful. Unfortunately Mr. Smith died late last night from shock"; and, reading, one realizes that there will always be these two views of things; the expert and the non-expert; the expert view of the doctor was that the xyz was removed, and the non-expert view of the widow that her husband is dead. And her husband is not less dead if all the Professors in the world assure her that she is a woman of no real scientific training.

In this matter of vivisection there are three points, and three points only, which need to be discussed, and in only one of them is there any need to take expert opinion. *First*, Is it cruel? (By which I mean, Does it inflict unnecessary suffering?) *Secondly*, Are the results obtained from it of scientific value? *Thirdly*, Does the value compensate for the cruelty? Professor Hill will answer the second question for us, and I can speak for Browning and Ruskin as well as for myself when I say that we will take his word for it. On the first question, however, we shall not consult Professor Hill. It would be as laughable, as illogical, as stupid to take the word of a vivisector on the matter of the dog's feelings as it would be for him to take our word on the proper way of treating diseased tonsils in a field-mouse. We know that, regarded as a sport, the vivisection of dogs is cruel, barbarous,

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horrible. "Regarded as a sport," I say, and if Professor Hill still doesn't understand, let him sing those words over to himself. If it were only a sport, an amusement for rich men, would it be cruel? I think that even he will say "Yes." Then how can it cause less suffering to its victims just because it serves a useful end? The end may justify it, but cannot turn it suddenly into a charming tenderness.

Which brings us to the third point, upon which alone can there be any real argument. Does the end justify the means? There are people who appear to think that almost any means is justified so long as it leads to some materially profitable end; there are others who do not think so. Possibly Professor Hill doesn't think about it at all. But, whatever his views, he will probably agree that, in fact, one draws the line somewhere. Indeed, from his last letter it would seem that he himself draws it, indignantly, at the vivisection of criminals. Well, that is something. Here and there, also, one finds gentle souls who draw the line at the killing of flies. If Professor Hill can imagine some giant personified Vivisection starting operations with a fly, and working relentlessly upwards, through rabbits, dogs, literary men, horses, criminals, ordinary men, women, and children to the extreme height of the scientist, he would see that at every stage there would come from mankind an increasing volume of protest. A protest in some such words as these. "Stop! It isn't good enough. Even if what you are doing will save humanity from death itself, we cannot accept salvation at this price. Decency forbids."

It is, then, not for experts, but for the whole community to decide when "decency forbids." Does it forbid the vivisection of dogs? Many have decided that it does; many have decided that it doesn't. Some of us are still a little uncertain. But of one thing we are absolutely certain. Neither in this nor in any other matter affecting the souls, the minds, or the bodies of a community can we let the expert be the sole authority.—Yours, &c.,

A. A. MILNE.

EXPERIMENTS ON DOGS

SIR.—Some years ago, because of the alleged tortures inflicted by distinguished members of different universities on animals, public opinion was so aroused that a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate. The Commission decided that under certain safeguards appreciable pain or suffering would not occur, but required an annual return of all experiments carried out to be made to the Home Office. Nevertheless, the figures of these returns are now used as evidence of the extent of the "tortures" inflicted.

Lord Banbury has sought to arouse indignation in a recent letter to the *Times* by pointing out that, during 1925 and 1926, 1,147 dogs were used at University College for experimental purposes. Of these twenty-eight were not kept under an anaesthetic during the whole of the experiment. For the 1,119 dogs which were anaesthetized during the experiment, and which died under the anaesthetic, it may be said that, so far as the dogs were concerned, their fate was identical with that of dogs destroyed at the dogs' home. These, comprising 97.5 per cent. of the dogs used, died a completely painless death.

What of the twenty-eight dogs which were not anaesthetized during the whole of the experiment? I do not happen to know what their fate was. I can only say that many experiments of this kind which are done on dogs would not be described as experiments at all by any casual observer. The experiments of the Mellanbys, in which they established the cause of rickets and the means of its cure, and in which they are now establishing the prophylaxis of dental decay, are "experiments on dogs without the use of an anaesthetic." They are nothing more than observations on the effect of different diets.

The statement about "suffering—perhaps prolonged, perhaps intense—of the dog under severe experiment," which appeared in one of your contributors' letters last week, is simply a figment of the imagination. It has no remote resemblance to anything that goes on in a laboratory. I suggest that those who doubt this should make the acquaintance of people who hold licences granted by the Home Office.—Yours, &c.,

J. H. BURN.

Boxmoor.

INSULIN AND DIABETES

SIR.—Mr. Coleridge, in your issue of January 1st, seeks to reopen a controversy carried on in the *Times* which was closed by a leading article on December 10th last under the significant heading "Hasty Judgments."

Mr. Coleridge repeats his previous statement that "the use of insulin has not lowered the death-rate per million living persons from diabetes," but repudiates Professor Hill's charge that he implied "that the insulin treatment of diabetes is ineffective." He "did not 'imply' anything." The following quotation from another of Mr. Coleridge's letters with reference to insulin will enable your readers to judge whether Professor Hill has done him an injustice.

"I harbour the belief that if a treatment fails to lower the death-rate per million living persons it cannot be doing any good as a means of preventing people from dying of a disease."

In order to test whether the Registrar-General's returns would, in fact, bear the interpretation placed on them by Mr. Coleridge I compared the deaths officially attributed to diabetes in the two years 1921-22, preceding the introduction of insulin, with the similar figures for 1924-25, the two years following the introduction of insulin. The full results of my analysis appeared in the *Times* of December 8th, to which I would refer any of your readers who may be interested in this question. The most important fact brought out was that the deaths from diabetes under the age of forty-five in the two pre-insulin years 1921-22 were 30 per cent. more than the deaths in the two post-insulin years 1924-25.

The great reduction in mortality up to age forty-five cannot be attributed to any general decline in the incidence of the disease because it coincides with an increase at the older ages. It must therefore be difficult for the most prejudiced anti-vivisectionist to resist the conclusion that the use of insulin has prolonged the lives of many young diabetics.—Yours, &c.,

C. R. V. CUTTS.

25, Moorgate, E.C.2.
January 4th, 1927.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE POOR LAW

SIR.—May I join issue with Mrs. Keynes, so far as concerns London, on her suggestion for the future control of institutions at present under the Poor Law, viz., the infirmaries and the various institutions under the Metropolitan Asylums Board?

She proposes to establish new Public Institution Boards, on the model of the existing Metropolitan Asylums Board; independent, with definite statutory duties.

Apart from complicating an already heterogeneous system of local government, even if Mrs. Keynes's premises be accepted, the need for a new and independent statutory authority, such as she indicates, is not apparent.

In view of her suggestion that the new Board should consist mainly of members of the Metropolitan Borough Councils and the London County Council, it seems unnecessary to create a further constitutional anomaly in London local government by establishing an independent statutory authority whose powers and duties must inevitably clash with or overlap those of the existing local authorities, viz., the L.C.C. and the Borough Councils.

In what respect such an independent Board would gain in personnel and efficiency over a Central Public Assistance Committee with a definite constitutional relation to the L.C.C. and the Borough Councils and to their manifold public health activities, is not evident.

What would be the position of the County Medical Officer of Health and the Borough Medical Officers with regard to the new "Board"?

I think Mrs. Keynes has overlooked the main object of and justification for the proposed transfer of public health powers from the guardians and the M.A.B. to the County and Borough Councils.

In this way alone it is possible to co-ordinate effectively and organize public health services and activities as a whole. In London, at least four different authorities are responsible

for the principal public health services, viz., the L.C.C., the Borough Councils, the Guardians, and the M.A.B.

Despite the utmost goodwill and co-operation between them, the present system inevitably involves uncertainty of duty and function, overlapping, delay, and all the interminable correspondence which is the life-blood of local authorities in their dealings one with another. The rough edges are probably smoother than they have ever been, but wasted effort and friction there must be.

Accordingly, as regards London, Mrs. Keynes's proposal is not only constitutionally unsound ; it is in the technical sense reactionary. Moreover, to regard sick persons, who are by hypothesis only temporarily inmates of institutions, as a separate and independent public health matter is fallacious and impossible.

Prevention of disease, all the protective measures of the sanitary services, and above all the after-care of the sick, suffice to emphasize this point. Hospitals and infirmaries cannot be regarded as water-tight compartments. Is there any reason, other than the historical one, why the M.A.B. should be responsible for 9,000 patients in their institutions for the mentally defective, while the L.C.C. has the care of some 20,000 of the mentally sick? or why the anomaly should continue that, while the L.C.C. is the responsible authority for the residential treatment of tuberculosis in London, the accommodation should be provided by a Poor Law authority, viz., the M.A.B., the majority of whose patients are L.C.C. cases.

There is, in fact, only one reason for the continuance of the M.A.B., viz., that it has done its work well. But it should not be assumed that institutional management will be less efficient merely because the M.A.B. is supplanted by county councillors, borough councillors, and other persons specially qualified for the work.

Here I venture to repeat the view expressed in an earlier letter (in agreement with Mrs. Keynes), that the difficulties of the L.C.C. and the Borough Councils are not insuperable provided the Government assumes the burden of able-bodied persons as a national charge.

One further point. It is surely looking a long way ahead to postulate, as Mrs. Keynes has done, the collapse of the Voluntary Hospital Medical Schools, merely because co-ordination is effected between voluntary and municipal hospitals.

In fact, such co-ordination is in process of attainment without any change in the law, though it cannot be made fully effective without a reform of the Poor Law.

Early in 1920, the Paddington Board of Guardians, of which I was chairman, introduced a system of co-ordination with St. Mary's Hospital, which has worked satisfactorily and has greatly added to the efficiency of the Paddington Infirmary. The following consultants from St. Mary's are available, when required, for the patients in the infirmary : A consulting physician, a consulting surgeon, a radiographer, a gynaecologist, a dermatologist, an ophthalmologist, a laryngologist, a specialist for cancer, a consultant for children, a specialist for children, a specialist for tuberculosis. Further, students are admitted to the wards in charge of the surgeon or physician. I am informed that in 1923 out of twenty-five infirmaries, eighteen had a consultant service of some sort.

The principle of unified local government in homogeneous areas is all-important. This is quite consistent with devolution to other authorities within the area, and even with the local control and management of institutions if deemed expedient. But—no more Boards at any price!—Yours, etc.

H. ARTHUR BAKER.

County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.
January 10th, 1927.

POOR LAW REFORM

SIR,—As yours is the only paper, so far as I can discover, endeavouring to face the facts of the grave issues involved in the Poor Law Reform proposals, I venture to address you further on the subject. The argument that these proposals will make for economy, which weighs with the *Times*, is demonstrably unsound. The expenditure on out-door relief in London was £3,120,378 in 1926, of this £2,126,279 was spent

by seven out of the twenty-five Unions of London. The names of these seven Unions together with the Borough Councils of these districts will be familiar to your readers. The report of the special committee on the Poor Law which was presented to the L.C.C. in November last, recalling the statutory right of the destitute to relief, and suggesting the delegation of Home Assistance to the Borough Councils, said "no effective control could, therefore, be exercised in regard to persons relieved. The Council would doubtless prescribe maximum scales of relief for general application as has been done by the Ministry of Health in connection with expenditure on out-door relief charged on the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, but experience has shown that scales are insufficient as a safeguard against excessive expenditure. The chief factor affecting the cost of out-door relief is the total number of persons relieved, which in turn is governed largely by the character of the administration and especially the methods adopted in dealing with individual cases. We have therefore arrived at the conclusion that control by the Council could not extend much beyond laying down general principles and lines of policy. . . ." The report also mentioning the supersessory powers now vested in the Minister of Health and, saying that they should be conferred on the Council, says "whether in practice the existence of such powers would provide an effective remedy in cases of this kind is problematical. . . ." Is not this a confession of failure from the very beginning? No wonder that the Chairman of the L.C.C., Sir George Hume, speaking at Hammersmith lately said, "In the matter of the Guardians the L.C.C. was being driven from above. They were all extremely troubled as to the future of the Poor Law. There seemed to be a determination to make the change, and he, for one, could see the County Council not only being swamped with work to which they had not been accustomed, but with work which would alter the centre of gravity of the duties of that body. . . ."

Yet Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P., acting as the missionary of the proposals goes round preaching the ability and the willingness of the L.C.C. to do this work and the great economy that will result from such a transfer! The fundamental problems are there just as they were in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and, far from bringing us any nearer to a solution of them, the bureaucratic control, centralization, and static condition of affairs that must result if the proposals become law, will make this further off than ever. Unfortunately the essential point is being overlooked—that the work of Guardians is a human one, and consequently the system employed is secondary to the administrators. In fact the system of co-option, nomination, or appointment foreshadowed, together with reduction of responsibility and executive powers of the new administrators, promises an inferior supply. The importance of securing the best type of administrators for this work applies all round, but especially in relation to the children, and the light-hearted manner in which the Minister's proposals have been framed is evident here, for they are hardly mentioned. In the last return of the Ministry of Health it was shown that 72,470 children were being cared for by the Guardians of England and Wales under the various methods provided for by the Poor Law. (Children in receipt of domiciliary relief are excluded from these figures.) It has been my privilege to have much to do with these children, and to have intimate knowledge of their needs, which are far greater than those of more fortunate children. The future care of these children is a matter of profound concern to all of us who are now engaged in this work, and we see no hope of any improvement, but the reverse.

In conclusion may I recall the words of Mr. Asquith, speaking of the Guardians on the issue of the Majority and Minority Reports of 1909, and which, in view of the enormously increased volume of their work since that date, carry even greater weight? "With all their difficulties and shortcomings they represent, after all, a very large amount of gratuitous public spirit and service rendered by men and women over a long course of years, who do not live in the glare of publicity, who receive few rewards that fall to those occupying more prominent positions in local and Imperial administration, and whose services in many cases we could ill spare from the sphere of local administration. Speaking as an old-fashioned individual and entirely for myself, I look with some amount, I will not say of suspicion, but of doubt

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and uncertainty, upon the substitution of a centralized authority as regards many aspects of the problem of Poor Law administration, for those who with spontaneity of impulse, large local experience, and considerable elasticity in the application of principles to the varying circumstances of different cases have hitherto discharged this duty."—
Yours, &c.,

CATHERINE FULFORD.

16, Egerton Gardens, S.W.3.

January 9th, 1927.

WEIR HOUSES

SIR.—Our attention has been directed to a paragraph on page 469 of your issue of January 1st, 1927, wherein a reference is made to Weir Houses of which we are the sole constructors. This paragraph is associated with the failure of timber houses supplied to the L.C.C., and it states that "the experiments in Scotland on steel houses have equally depressing results."

So far as Weir Houses are concerned, this is entirely contrary to fact. As your readers are possibly aware, the obstruction and prejudice created by vested interests against the Weir House have been of the most virulent and malign character; yet in spite of all we have supplied and erected 1,242 Weir Houses in Scotland during the last twelve months—a contribution to Scottish housing which has not been reached in a year by any single firm of builders, and which represents an auxiliary contribution to Scottish housing of over 10 per cent. One thousand two hundred and forty-two families in one year have thus been housed who would otherwise have been left in slums or overcrowded dwellings—and this in spite of all classes of opposition.

As regards the merits of the houses, we leave this to the tenants to express their opinions, and have overwhelming evidence of their entire satisfaction.

Your paragraph further states that all figures of cost given for these houses are in excess of the cost of brick houses, and you refer to a figure of £415 for Weir Houses exclusive of land, sewers, fencing, roads, transport, and administration expenses. All we would say in regard to this is that we receive for these houses, of the cheapest type, £367 each, and for the most expensive type £390 each.

You also refer to twenty chimneys having been blown down. This is quite true, but the statement loses its value when we inform you that these chimneys had just been erected and were quite green when a violent gale struck them—and similar experience is by no means unknown in normal building.

Lastly, you state that experts expect that the timber studding will suffer from damp. We are glad to reassure you on this point. The one definite and technically clear merit of a properly designed steel house is its complete immunity from damp, and ample evidence is now available after three years' experience to demonstrate this completely.

In conclusion, may we say that the only depressing matter in regard to the Weir scheme has been its reception by those who are responsible for the housing of the people? Every single claim made on its behalf for speed of erection, the employment of the unemployed, the high earnings of the workers, the merits of the house as a house, and the certainty of securing houses by this method, has now been completely demonstrated.—Yours, &c.,

CARDONAL HOUSING CORPORATION, LTD.

Barfillan Drive, Cardonald, Glasgow.

January 10th, 1927.

THE POOR CONSERVATIVE

By E. V. KNOX.

HAS a poor man a moral right to be a Conservative? This problem has exercised me for many days now, and I have come to the conclusion that he has. I have recently met a man who makes the claim. He was, and is (I hardly like to say it), a plumber: but, contrary to the received opinion about plumbers, this man did not spend all his time conversing with his mate. He spent part of his time conversing with me.

He did not leave his tools at home, but he did drop his *hs*: a fact which gave me immense satisfaction, for the growing use of the *h* amongst English artisans is, from the point of view of the humorous writer, one of the most distressing symptoms of our national decay. He told me that he was a Conservative, and he told me that when pipes were blocked up he usually found that they were full of air.

"Air?" I repeated, a little bemused, as I always am, by the mysteries of hydraulic power.

"Air from the 'uman 'ed," he explained.

I expressed surprise at this, but he assured me that he spoke the truth.

"Outside gutters and everywhere. Any amount of it. Well, what I say is, it's always coming off the 'uman 'ed and it's bound to go somewhere, ain't it, that's what I always say."

A philosopher. He went on to tell me that one of the troubles of modern life in his opinion was that people would try to do other people's jobs, and that there would be fewer accidents in the street if all gentlemen and ladies used chauffeurs to drive their cars. And he added as a final opinion that a woman's place was the 'ome.

I said that I agreed with him. I am a conversational coward. Speaking to another man, I should probably have said:

"Yes, but whose home?" or "'ose 'ome?" in order to obtain a reputation as a witty cynic. Speaking to yet another man, I might have said:

"Please don't try to be funny," in order to obtain a reputation as a person of progressive mind. But I felt that the plumber would think more highly of me as a ratepayer and householder if I left the proposition where it stood. Woman is not like 'uman 'air. Why should she gad abroad?

We parted on the best of terms. But the thought came to me afterwards that I should perhaps have asked this poor man, for, contrary again to received opinion, plumbers are not usually millionaires—I should have asked him how, being a poor man, he posed as a Conservative. Was there not a certain moral insincerity in moving, as no doubt he did, now and then, amongst capitalists, and pretending to sympathize with their griefs? What right had he to console with the rich man over the monstrous size of his income tax, the dwindling rent-roll, the enormous death duties, the rise of wages, the terrific cost in upkeep that a huge establishment entails? How could he go amongst these men with soft hands and pretend to be one of them, whilst having horny hands himself? (I had not actually examined his hands to find out whether they were horny. They may have been merely of some other composition. But I suspected the worst.) Was it not as though the demagogue Cleon or Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in his earlier days, had espoused the cause of the rich aristocrat against the bourgeoisie, stepping out of his class and attacking his own kith and kin? Ought not this man, in fact, to have become rich, to have become a capitalist himself, before he threw in his lot with the capitalists?

I weighed the problem, and I decided in favour of my plumber.

There was always a chance, it seemed to me, that he might become rich, and so make himself a fitting representative of the cause in which he believed. It was not really necessary to divest himself of poverty before he became a Conservative. We must not press political honesty so far

as to probe into the minutest details of men's private lives. There might be many other poor Conservatives who, without any intention of remaining poor if the cause of Conservatism demanded that they should sacrifice their poverty for riches, were in the same anomalous position.

Here was a man who obviously did not possess a motor-car at the present time, and if he came to possess one during the next few years, would almost certainly have to drive it himself. Yet he sincerely believed that a man should not drive his own motor-car, but employ a chauffeur to do it for him. There was inconsistency, but a lovable inconsistency, I thought. Had I not talked with an American gentleman who had warmly defended Prohibition whilst sipping the best champagne? Did I not know women who bitterly assailed the notion that a woman's place was the 'ome, yet for all that were distressingly loyal wives and absurdly preoccupied mothers? As is the 'air of the 'uman 'ed, I reflected, so is the conduct of mankind—unstable, restless, and perverse.

I acquitted, I say, my plumber, and I acquit him still.

ART OLD MASTERS BY ROGER FRY.

THE Flemish Exhibition at the Royal Academy and the Coates' Collection at the British Artists in Suffolk Street have together provided London with such a feast of new Old Masters as it has not sat down to for many a year. It seems once more like the good old times before modern art was discovered, when learning was respected and documents were scanned and quoted. Once more attributions are flying round and the connoisseurs, no longer with the flushed enthusiasm of youth, but with patient and slow determination, rubbing up their memories and their glasses, peer ecstatically at fine *craquelures* or shake their heads over repaintings and fill their catalogues with innumerable notes. It is a pleasant and happy world that this brings back to us. Pleasant perhaps in this gentle afterglow than in its great prime, for the attributions are canvassed and denounced with less passion and less heat than then.

Let us begin with the Coates' Collection and reserve till later the more solid fare which the Royal Academy provides.

This is one of those strange and unaccountable collections which baffle one entirely if one tries to read from it any intelligible story of the collector's mentality. Why, one wonders, when he liked so many bad pictures, did he ever trouble or manage to get good ones? The general note is, indeed, highly disquieting, especially if one looks at the attributions which the owner gave to his pictures. From them, indeed, one would learn some surprising facts: that Velasquez was a Dutchman, that Rembrandt was quite a bad artist, that Vermeer was the master of three or four entirely distinct and unrelated styles. So suspicious does one become after a few such revelations that one runs the risk of missing the really fine things that lie scattered and sometimes almost hidden among the pretentious and titled mediocrities. One, however, declares itself conspicuously enough, that is the early Vermeer of "Christ with Martha and Mary." Vermeer, who was at times the most perfect painter that ever was, remains one of the most disconcerting and undecipherable of artistic personalities. Nor does this early work make the question easier. It shows his almost incredible aptitude, but also the uncertainty of his direction. It is intensely Dutch in the intimacy and particularity of its psychological attitude, and also in the realism of its detail, and yet this incredible young man has taken it into his head to beat the Baroque Italians of his day at their own game; for not only has the plastic design the ease and flowing rhythm which we associate with Italy, but the Christ is borrowed, with variations—which are all improvements—from a picture by

Bernardo Cavallino. There seems almost nothing that Vermeer might not have done on this grand scale, and yet how soon he abandoned it once for all.

Amongst the discoveries which await the patient searcher in this curious miscellany of painting is an exquisite little camp scene by Watteau, which again gives us an early and unfamiliar aspect of a great artist's vision. It has a subdued and almost tentative delicacy and perfection of quality which makes it in some ways more enjoyable than his more explicit and emphatic works.

In the same room are two Whistlers; one a portrait so vulgar that but for its irreproachable pedigree (for it was bought direct from the artist), one would like to give it to a pupil or imitator; the other one of the Valparaiso nocturnes which has almost all that Whistler could give—not a great deal perhaps, but perfect in its limited way.

Monticelli can be seen in this collection as hardly anywhere else. He was, however, too mannered and too repetitive to gain by being seen in mass. Still there are three or four pieces in which his peculiar operatic or perhaps more purely musical vision is realized delightfully.

Two of Gainsborough's male portraits which have the advantage of being of plain and undistinguished sitters show his art at the finest. Their simplicity and almost literal directness of statement are only modified by the artist's inevitable and unconscious rhythmic feeling.

There is enough, then, in this gallery, even if one disregards the Dutch Velasquez, several Vermeers which have nothing to do with the author of the "Christ and Martha," and finds oneself rather unhappy before the Rembrands—though two are perhaps genuine—there is enough to repay an hour or two's hunting.

The sporting instinct may be laid aside at the Flemish Exhibition, for here, even if one has one's private opinion about certain attributions, every picture has been chosen by a committee which enlisted the services of the greatest authorities on Belgian art. The fact that MM. Hulin de Loo and Fierens-Gevaert were on that committee is sufficient guarantee that the choice of pictures has been deliberate and judicious. Certainly there has never before been such an opportunity in London for judging of the achievement of the Flemish school as a whole. It is fortunate, indeed, for that purpose that the van Eycks are both of them represented here. There are also enough examples of still earlier art to show us that it was the specific quality of the van Eycks' vision—and of John's rather than Hubert's—that determined the whole evolution of Flemish art for more than a century. Before the van Eycks came Flemish art was in line with the general European tradition of painting. Hubert van Eyck's magnificent picture of the "Three Marys at the Sepulchre" is still not altogether separated from that tradition as we see it in artists like Melchior Broederlam. It is more realistic, no doubt, but the realism is not yet tied down strictly to actual appearances. A general sense of perspective is there, but the relations of objects are not rigorously defined by its laws. It is John van Eyck who sets, in such pictures as the Northbrook "Madonna and Child" (No. 10), the standard of exact conformity to perspective appearance, and who also gives to all his tone and colour relations an exact objective value. And this, naturally enough, goes with a change of rhythm which one may compare to the change from a verse to a prose rhythm. The flowing and evident harmonies of earlier art give place to a more elastic, less insistent rhythm. And this persists—helped not a little by the change, even in the decorative design of Northern Europe, from a flowing curvilinear to a staccato rectilinear system of design—persists all through the great period of Flemish art. It is evident in Rogier van der Weyden; controls, and perhaps to some extent hampers, the more lyrical tendencies of Memling; fits in happily enough with the natural feeling of Dirk Bouts, and only begins to break down in Quentin Matsys with the resurgence of Italian influence. But for that century and more John van Eyck's dyke had stood fast, had shut Flanders off from Italy, and had kept the Flemish free to follow their native bent towards a more naive curiosity about fact and a more childish love of splendour. And, indeed, when Italy begins to reassert itself with the Lambert Lombards, the Matsyses, the Van Orleys, we feel grateful for this protection, for by

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now at least, after this long isolation, these Northerners get hold of the Italian idea by the wrong end. They round off, no doubt, some of the angularity of their drawing, but only to tumble over into affectation and extravagance, and that naive love of sheer magnificence and display makes them torment the new Renaissance patterns into more than Gothic flamboyancy and excess.

Even Matsys, the most pictorially gifted of this generation, begins badly enough with the early Madonna (No. 171), though he comes through to a finer sense of proportion and a less exuberant grace in the Antwerp "Magdalén." Mabuse, too, who is magnificently represented here, is as well inspired in his portraits as he is ill in some of his subject pictures.

But the present exhibition is sufficiently extensive to prove that this rather depressing episode of the invasion of Flemish art by Italian is only a prelude to the grand finale of Rubens. He at last can justify the breach with the van Eyck tradition. And he is seen here superbly. Though there are none of his great mythologies, where, of course, he is most Italian, his portraits and landscapes are intensely exhilarating. Some, too, are quite unfamiliar. Comparatively few will have seen before the amazing portrait of Yrsselius from Copenhagen, an extraordinary harmony of reddish flesh against a pale red background. Then there is the consummate but comparatively obvious portrait of Rubens's first wife, from Buckingham Palace, and a splendidly positive, almost aggressive, painting of the Marqués de Legañez (No. 155), in which the high lights on the armour are rendered with that frank acceptance of the accidents of atmospheric colour which one thinks of as peculiarly modern. It is interesting to see how Vandyck in his "Count of Nassau-Siegen" (No. 148) reverts to the conventional rendering of the same motive and how insipid by comparison the result is. Then there is the entrancing "Flight into Egypt by Night" (No. 271), which was once in the Brownlow Collection, in which all the magic of Rubens's colour comes out in the abbreviated statement of a very subdued colour scheme, and again the more elaborate and subtle moonlit landscape from the Mond Collection, the only successful pictorial rendering that I know, of a moon—and starlit—sky. And then there are several landscapes of which the Duke of Buccleugh's (No. 263) is the most important. It is astonishing how Rubens has never lost the vitality of a single brush stroke in this complicated and rich composition where the extravagant wealth of detail is yet held entirely suspended in the general unity.

And Brouwer affords another rare experience. There is his little landscape which has just been bought by the Louvre, a twilight scene on the edge of a wood. The intense sentiment which it arouses comes directly out of the interpretation of the visual effect and not by any of those emphatic accents which the romantic landscape painters of the nineteenth century have taught us to expect. Brouwer here appears more modern in his classic simplicity and directness of statement than Rousseau or Turner. The other landscape by Brouwer (No. 319) is surprising for its large scale, and again for the fact of his astonishing modernity. One asks almost, what was left for Constable to add to this. Siberechts (No. 306), on the other hand, is modern in a less satisfactory way, modern in his adjustment of dull photographic detail to a rather empty formula.

And Pieter Breughel, the elder, is here too in three or four genuine pieces, and several imitations and copies by his followers. There is the exquisitely lovely "Icarus," from the Brussels gallery, to my mind the most delightful as it is the most fantastic of his works. His, too, is a very strange picture of a storm at sea—in which the sixteenth-century tradition which Breughel inherited, with its niggled and fussy drawing of detail, is in glaring conflict with Breughel's own anticipations of seventeenth-century breadth and freedom. In the sky he has got free of his past and almost announces a Rubens.

And still I have left Jordaens out. It must suffice to say that he almost dominates the big gallery and certainly flattens Vandyck a little more than ever by his magnificently commonplace and gorgeous portrait of himself and his wife.

PLAYS AND PICTURES

"*LOST PROPERTY*," by Ben Landeck, a new Jewish comedy, at the Everyman Theatre, is quite unexpectedly and almost unaccountably entertaining. The theme is the same as that of the "*Cradle Song*," a baby being left, not in a nunnery, but on a pawnbroker's table. The education of this child in the Jewish faith and its final happiness with a clean-limbed English Christian is too inevitable to be enthralling—but the various types of Jew that appear on the scene provoke much pleasant mirth. Mr. Sherbrooke gave a brilliant display as an old Jew, who behaves in Mayfair just as he did in Soho, and is amusingly contrasted with his son, who has changed his name from Abraham to George, and is never seen out of evening dress, but remains *au fond* as good a Jew as ever. Miss Joan Pereira gave an excellent study as an elderly "Yid," with a very incomplete control over the English language. It was unfortunate that the supposititious child was such a tremendously blonde beast. Everyone must have suspected that something had gone wrong from the start. Producers ought really to think of little details of this kind.

* * *

"*My Son John*," which has just celebrated its fiftieth performance at the Shaftesbury Theatre, is a good entertainment rather than a good musical comedy. I doubt any of its numbers taking the town, but the general effect is vivacious and pleasing. There is a good Billy Merson part (but then there always is), and his entry on a donkey as an Albanian Mpret is sublime. Miss Betty Chester introduced a good deal of vivacity into the "soubrette" part, and Miss Annie Croft was suitably languishing as the heroine, Sandy Faire, who allows herself to be "misunderstood" with an obstinate and unintelligent self-sacrifice that I thought had been banished from this cynical world. The chorus of mannequins were very pretty, and danced with spirit, particularly when in bathing dresses. "*My Son John*" provides just the sort of entertainment which suits a friend from the country.

* * *

Mr. Buster Keaton is always a joy, and his latest film "*Battling Butler*" (showing at the Marble Arch Pavilion) is up to his best standard. The story is taken from the singularly fatuous play of the same name, which was seen in London a year or two ago, but the absurdities of the play make an excellent background for the much more amusing absurdities of Mr. Keaton. The unfortunate young man, who has gone away into the mountains for a rest cure, with an exquisite camping equipment and a model valet (who is also, in his way, a very good comedian), is forced by an improbable but ingenious succession of events into the uncomfortable position of impersonating a prize-fighter; he goes through many trying and some very painful experiences before, finally, he knocks out the real prize-fighter, who has come to punish him for his presumption, and wins his "mountain maid." "*Bardeleys the Magnificent*" (at the New Gallery Cinema) is taken from a novel by Mr. Rafael Sabatini: the period is the reign of Louis XIII., and the story one of those hectic historical romances in which the hero is plunged from one adventure into another before he has time to take breath. This part is played by Mr. John Gilbert, who not only looks, owing to his make-up, remarkably like Mr. Douglas Fairbanks, but performs many exploits of the Fairbanks kind, with apparently equal ease. Miss Eleanor Boardman makes a charming heroine, and the magnificence suggested by the title is not spared.

* * *

There is a good deal that is pleasant and cheerful in the exhibition of the "Seven and Five" Society at the Beaux Arts Gallery: its greatest merit, indeed, is the obvious spontaneity and freshness of the painting. One feels that the artists at any rate must have enjoyed themselves, even if, as in many cases, their powers are limited and the

results of their enjoyment are rather flimsy. Mr. Ben Nicholson, Mrs. Winifred Nicholson, Mr. P. H. Jowett, Mr. Colin Sealy, all seem able to infuse a certain gaiety and prettiness into their landscapes and still life. Mr. Ivon Hitchens has a good feeling for colour, but tends to become monotonous and facile; Mr. Christopher Wood draws well and with sensibility; Mr. Edward Wolfe is talented, but tends at times to become hard. A painter of much greater force of personality is Mr. Cedric Morris. His pictures have a solidity and massiveness which are unique in this exhibition. Firm in design both as regards form and colour, they have an existence and completeness of their own, and are independent of associations or fashions. Miss Betty Muntz shows some interesting sculptures; her portrait of two children has great charm.

* * *

Things to see and hear in the coming week :—

- Sunday, January 16.—Mr. C. Delisle Burns on "Pirandello's Plays," at 11, at South Place.
Renaissance Theatre production of De Musset's "On ne Badine pas avec l'Amour."
Film Society's film "The Joyless Street," at 2.30, at the New Gallery Kinema.
Mr. G. A. de Zoyza on "The Soul of Buddhism," at 3.30, at The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square.
Monday, January 17.—"The Yorrick Hotel Case," at the "Q."
"The Marriage of Figaro" (opera and film), at the Polytechnic.
The Norwich Players in "Much Ado About Nothing," at the Maddermarket Theatre.
Beatrice Tange, pianoforte recital, at 8.15, at the Aeolian Hall.
Mr. T. E. Ellis's "Heraclius," at the Festival Theatre, Cambridge.
Tuesday, January 18.—Nadejin, vocal recital, at 8.15, at the Aeolian Hall.
The Erhart String Chamber Orchestra, at 5.15, at Mortimer Hall.
Wednesday, January 19.—Dr. Noel Scott's "The Joker," at the Royalty.
Mr. Shaw's "Pygmalion," at the Kingsway.
Col. Malone on China, at 8, at Denison House.
Cedar Paul (Songs and Tales), at the New Chenil Galleries.
Major Cyril Davenport on "The Origin of the Book," at 5.30, at University College.
Dr. Asta Kihlbom on "Modern Sweden: the Land and the People," at 5.30, at University College.
Thursday, January 20.—George Farquhar's "The Beaux' Stratagem," at the Lyric, Hammersmith.
Gerald Cooper Fourth Chamber Concert (Purcell), at 8.30, at Grotrian Hall.
Mr. John Drinkwater reading his own Poems, at 6, at the Poetry Book-Shop, 38, Great Russell Street.
"Don Giovanni," at the Old Vic.
Friday, January 21.—Roy Ellett, pianoforte recital, at 8.15, at the Aeolian Hall.

OMICRON.

TIVOLI Strand Gerr. 5222.
TWICE DAILY at 2.30 & 8.30. SUNDAYS at 6 & 8.30
The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production
"BEN-HUR"
with
RAMON NOVARRO
Produced by Fred Niblo

OPERAS.

NEW POLYTECHNIC THEATRE. Daily, at 2.30 & 8. (Mayfair 6102.)
MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

POWERFUL OPERATIC CAST APPEARING IN PERSON. STORY BY CINEMA.

THEATRES.

ALDWYCH. Gerrard 3929. NIGHTLY, at 8.15.
MATINEES, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY, at 2.30.

ROOKERY NOOK.

TOM WALLS, Mary Brough and RALPH LYNN.

AMBASSADORS. NIGHTLY, 8.40. MATS., TUES. & FRI., 2.30.

ESCAPE. By JOHN GALSWORTHY. LEON M. LION.
NICHOLAS HANNEN.

COURT THEATRE. Sloane Square. Sloane 5137 (2 lines).

EVENINGS, at 8.15. MATINEES, WED., THURS. & SAT., at 2.15.
THE FARMER'S WIFE.

LAST THREE WEEKS. LAST THREE WEEKS.

DRURY LANE. Gerr. 2588. Evenings, at 8.15. Mats., Wed. & Sat., 2.30.

ROSE MARIE. A Musical Play. A ROMANCE OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES.
NELSON KEYS, EDITH DAY, DEREK OLDHAM.

KINGSWAY THEATRE. (Ger. 4032.) WED. NEXT, at 8.15

and Every Evening. FIRST MATINEE, SATURDAY, at 2.30.
(FOR THREE WEEKS ONLY.) BERNARD SHAW'S PYGMALION.

LITTLE THEATRE. Regent 2401.
EVERY AFTERNOON, at 2.45, and WED. & SAT. EVENINGS, at 8.45.

THE CRADLE SONG
A COMEDY BY SIERRA. (LAST WEEKS.)

LYRIC THEATRE, Hammersmith. Riverside 3012.
THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 20th.

THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM.
NIGEL PLAYFAIR, GEORGE HAYES, MILES MALLESON,
and EDITH EVANS.

ROYALTY THEATRE. (Gerrard 3855.)
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19, at 8.30. FIRST MATINEE, SATURDAY, at 2.30.

THE JOKER.
DENNIS EADIE and PHYLLIS TITMUSS.

SHAFTESBURY. Nightly, at 8.15. MATS., WED. & SAT., 2.30.

MY SON JOHN.
BILLY MERSON. ANNIE CROFT. Gerrard 6666.

STRAND THEATRE. (Ger. 3830.) DAILY, at 2.30.

TREASURE ISLAND.
WITH ARTHUR BOURCHIER.
LAST 7 PERFORMANCES THIS SEASON

CINEMAS.

CAPITOL, Haymarket, S.W. Continuous DAILY, 1 to 11. SUNS., 6 to 11.
LAST 2 DAYS OF IBANEZ' GREATEST ROMANCE,
"THE TEMPTRESS."

With GRETA GARBO, ANTONIO MORENO & LIONEL BARRYMORE.

TIVOLI. Ger. 5222. Daily, 2.30, 8.30. Sunday, 6 & 8.30.
RAMON NOVARRO in BEN HUR.

Seats reserved in advance.

Book early.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

SHAKESPEARE AND MACHIAVELLI

IN "The Lion and the Fox, the Rôle of the Hero in the Plays of Shakespeare" (Grant Richards, 16s.), Mr. Wyndham Lewis has achieved a rare and difficult feat; he has written a book about Shakespeare which throughout displays frankness, intelligence, and understanding. As he combines with these qualities a certain amount of wit and humour, a considerable power of original thought, and a laudable taste for hunting the elusive hares of Truth, he has produced one of those disorderly and "provocative" works which probably will annoy a good many readers, but will provide great pleasure to anyone who shares his taste for speculation.

* * *

Mr. Lewis is a great man for hares. He has only to catch a glimpse of the tail end of a possible historical truth miles away off the line of his argument, and he will be after it and hunt it down with immense enthusiasm, whether it take him a paragraph or cost him a whole new chapter. I thoroughly approve of the habit, but it has some disadvantages. Usually Mr. Lewis's hares are well worth hunting, though he occasionally goes off after a rather inferior rabbit. And the multiplicity of his hares does in the end rather obscure his main thesis or theses. Indeed, in the latter half of the book it is not absolutely clear where the main argument which gives its title to the book has exactly landed us.

* * *

Mr. Lewis begins with an interesting dissertation proving the enormous influence which Machiavelli had on the people of Europe during the Renaissance, and the horror which his doctrines inspired in England in Shakespeare's time. He has no difficulty in showing how deeply and widely Elizabethan tragedy was affected by Machiavellism. The title of his book, "The Lion and the Fox," is taken from Machiavelli's description of the two types of men, the lion-man and the fox-man. Mr. Lewis maintains that this figure or idea of the fox and lion and their antagonism is a dominating one in Shakespearian and Elizabethan tragedy. The hero is the lion; a king, prince, or mighty warrior; simple, brave, and noble. The tragedy consists in the striking down of this mighty lion, perplexed in the extreme, by the crafty Machiavellian fox. The typical instance in Shakespeare is to be found in what is, perhaps, his most perfectly tragic tragedy, "Othello," where the hero is the perfect "lion," while Iago is the perfect fox—"strictly," as Mr. Lewis says, "'the man of the world,' with so much purpose and energy added as is required to be the David to Othello's Goliath in a predestined tragedy, where the dice are palpably loaded in the interest of the small and crooked."

* * *

Mr. Lewis's detailed interpretation of "Othello," "Coriolanus," "Troilus and Cressida," and some of the other plays, in relation to his main theme, is extremely interesting, but I find myself still more interested in his treatment of the problem of Shakespeare's own attitude towards his heroes and villains, his lions and foxes, and the world of action in which the necessities of tragedy required that they should play their parts. Many people will vehemently disagree with Mr. Lewis's conclusions, but in their main outlines they seem to me uncontested. "The view adopted here," he writes, "is that there is a great deal of evidence in Shakespeare's plays that he had the poorest opinion, both of the action and the actors that he spent his life writing about." The view, it will be observed is

sweeping, for "the action and the actors" include both the lions and the foxes, the Othellos, Antonys, Timons, and Lear, as well as the Iagos and Thersites. Yet Mr. Lewis can make a very good case for the statement, even in its most sweeping form. The world of tragedy is necessarily the world of action, the world of Machiavelli, of rule and authority and war and politics and of "men of the world." Shakespeare's heroes, though they are lions, all belong by nature and birth to that world of action. They fail, and by their failure provide material for high tragedy, because they are simple, headlong, rather stupid lions who fall into the snares of the human foxes or of the craftiest of all foxes, Fate. Coriolanus and Timon, Antony, Macbeth, Othello, and Lear are all men of action; only Hamlet—in the great tragedies—is an exception, a significant exception, for the hinge of the tragedy there is the inability of a man who is by nature a thinker rather than a doer to force himself to action.

* * *

It is true that Shakespeare obviously had great sympathy for many of these distressed and distracted lions. Had he not, he would never have been the great dramatist that he was, nor would such characters as those of Antony, Othello, and Lear be what they are. But sympathy in that sense is, as Mr. Lewis says, by no means incompatible with "the poorest opinion" of these kings, dukes, and soldiers, and of the activities to which they devoted themselves. The evidence for Shakespeare's contempt of and disgust with the world of action and the great actors in it is, of course, circumstantial evidence, but it is none the worse for being that. It is a remarkable fact, rightly insisted upon by Mr. Lewis, that at the crisis of their fates, all Shakespeare's great tragic heroes, whatever their previous character may have been (and, indeed, even the most lowly character may do the same at any moment), speak the same language in the same voice. It is the voice of the thinker, the "philosopher," a voice of bitterest railing, of complete disillusion with the actual world and the "great world," of supreme contempt for everything which makes up the world of action and its standards. Perhaps the most curious example of this is one which Mr. Lewis quotes from a play which preceded the great tragedies, "Richard II.;" there the king, "who up till then has shown in his harangues in the play no sign of especial intelligence, has been only crossly harsh and pompous by turns," as soon as he has lost his kingdom, suddenly becomes a completely different character and bursts out in that magnificent and bitter meditation on the world of kings and action which is the forerunner of the more violent indictments of a Timon and a Lear.

* * *

This view is, of course, extremely distasteful to all those who like to think of Shakespeare as "gentle," "sweet," and Christian, reflecting impartially and impersonally "the world as it is." The detailed evidence for Mr. Lewis's view must be read in his book. But, putting aside the detailed evidence, those who ask us to accept their vision of a gentle, impersonal, and optimistic Shakespeare have many inexplicable things to explain. For instance, gallons of ink and reams of paper have been wasted in attempts to find reasons why "Troilus and Cressida" was written by "the most harmonious and most kindly of poets." One need not go as far as "Troilus and Cressida." There is "King Lear," for instance. It is a tragedy, no doubt, and therefore not, of its nature, cheerful, but its circumambient atmosphere is hardly what one would expect from "the most harmonious and most kindly of poets"—"all's cheerless, dark, and deadly," is Kent's comment. It is possible that an optimist wrote "King Lear," and that the author of "Soldiers Three" is in his heart a Little Englander; but neither is probable.

LEONARD WOOLF.

REVIEWS

HAMMER AND TONGS

A Companion to Mr. Wells's "Outline of History." By HILAIRE BELLOC. (Sheed & Ward. 10s. 6d.)

Mr. Belloc Objects to "The Outline of History." By H. G. WELLS. (Watts. 7d.)

Mr. Belloc Still Objects. By HILAIRE BELLOC. (Sheed & Ward. 1s.)

Or these astonishing additions to our printed matter, the second has already been discussed by Mr. Woolf, and is only included so that those who embark on this controversy may not founder entirely. I deal with Mr. Belloc's contributions, not as a biologist, historian, or theologian, but as one of the mob—in Mr. Belloc's opinion uninstructed, muddle-headed, and contemptible—who were grateful to Mr. Wells for writing his "Outline." These productions have no literary value. A man in an angry, pompous, and arrogant temper does not usually write well, and Mr. Belloc is no exception.

Mr. Wells's task in his "Outline" was to collect, digest, and arrange the modern accumulations of facts and theories concerning the development of life on this planet. The ordinary man, receiving these accumulations piecemeal, was vague about the relations of geology and biology to recorded history. He could not see the wood for the trees. He wanted someone to stand him back and show him a focused long view of life from its beginnings. This enormous task of popular instruction evidently required great mental vigour, the knack of clear and just summary, and vivid literary power. It also required, not frigidity and detachment, but a powerfully directed mind: a pattern was the first essential, and some degree of bias an actual necessity. Mr. Wells was the man for this job, and he did it with conspicuous success. But it was Mr. Wells who massed and marshalled the material, and naturally the ordering of it is the order of Mr. Wells's mind. Thus one of the dominating ideas of the "Outline" is that an attachment to supernatural elements in religion is only a phase in man's development, and that it is already passing. One of the great merits of the book is that it shows how the facts look when they are arrayed in illustration of this idea by a man at once honest enough not to cheat and eager and skilful enough to make the most of his theme. No one pretends that Mr. Wells got all the facts or even all the significance of the facts he did get. But his readers got what they were looking for—an outline of history.

There should, of course, be other outlines. It is open to anyone—and particularly to Mr. Belloc—to traverse the same ground and show a more convincing view. Mr. Belloc holds that the Catholic Church is the central fact of the world. He says that Mr. Wells hates the Catholic Church and wrote his "Outline" to destroy it. If this is so, Mr. Belloc should establish the Faith firmly in the centre of another outline. Instead, he has written a "Companion"—comically produced in the same format as the "Outline"—which is surely the most uncompanionable thing in literature. As Mr. Belloc leads the reader through his long, magisterial, and unctuous exposure of Mr. Wells's errors, a picture forms in the reader's mind of Mr. Wells, engaged on his "Outline," coming briskly down to breakfast each morning in gleeful expectation of getting in several good digs at the Catholic Church, and going to bed thoroughly satisfied with the day's sneers. Mr. Belloc begins by giving Mr. Wells several heavy pats on the back, before knocking him down on the score of being a provincial, a patriot, a creature unable to think, a copier of exploded text-books, and an ignoramus on Catholic history. The sad mental consequences of Mr. Wells's state of decayed Puritanism are repeatedly contrasted with the clear thinking, judgment, and knowledge of the world to which those born into the Faith are heirs. Meanwhile, the culprit is lectured on the origin of species, the fall of man, the origins of Christian doctrine, the Roman Empire, Buddhism, Islam, the Reformation, and the subsequent history of Europe which is, it seems, nothing more complicated than a struggle between the Faith and its enemies. On many of his detailed criticisms Mr. Belloc is no doubt competent to lecture. But he is so eager to hammer Mr. Wells, so agile on his debating legs, that he succeeds too

well in concealing his base of operations. Somewhere behind Mr. Belloc's scientific excursions rest the Catholic dogmas, fixed and unalterable. How far is science to be allowed to advance? Will not Mr. Belloc give us his Outline?

There is, however, one curious outcome of this controversy, which is important to the general reader. Mr. Wells says that natural selection is the main operative factor in the growth of new species. Mr. Belloc denies it, and in this he appears to be substantially right. He accepts evolution, but insists, of course, that the species are ordered by "design," by outbursts of creative power intermitting with long periods of stability. He is enormously contemptuous of Darwin and Wallace, who, it seems, did their work only to "get rid of God," and he mars his discussion by a ponderous analytical apparatus in which, by giving several pseudo-mathematical *a priori* "proofs" that their theory is absurd, he merely overreaches himself and shows how little he understands the rigours of mathematical statement. It is probable, indeed, that there is no *a priori* proof of the inadequacy of natural selection, and Mr. Wells's defence of his view is a cogent exposition of the possibility that natural selection might be the main originating factor. But it is only a possibility. The appeal must be to accumulating evidence, and eminent biologists (whose names and opinions Mr. Belloc quotes with enormous gusto) are now declaring that in many important instances, including, indeed, the progress from ape to man, the facts cannot be covered except by postulating one or more sudden, large, and materially inexplicable "jumps" in the curve of development.

Mr. Belloc is therefore at liberty to say triumphantly: "Design," and this he reiterates with great effect in his pamphlet. But the result of all this mass of acrimonious writing is to turn one with relief to the friendly wit of Low's cartoons of Mr. Wells and Mr. Belloc, which Mr. Wells has the good humour to reproduce in his pamphlet. If these be labelled respectively "Terror" and "Holy Terror," the unpleasant aspects of this brawl may be summed up and dismissed.

BARRINGTON GATES.

MODERN ANGLICANISM

The Faiths. Edited by L. P. JACKS, D.D. **The Anglo-Catholic Faith.** By CANON LACEY. **Modernism in the English Church.** By PROFESSOR PERCY GARDNER. (Methuen. 5s. each.)

Some Reminiscences of an Unclerical Cleric. By the REV. ARTHUR GOLDRING. (Lane. 7s. 6d.)

"THE Churches" would have been a better title for Messrs. Methuen's series on "Varieties of Christian Expression" than "The Faiths." "This is the Catholic Faith," says the Athanasian Creed with a certain dogmatic rotundity: to descend to what Canon Lacey calls the "Anglo-Catholic Faith" is to strike a somewhat provincial note. But his phrase "the Anglo-Catholic sect," in itself a happier one, will scarcely commend itself to the CHURCH TIMES; while the TABLET will take exception to the statement that the Jesuit and other missionary priests martyred under the Penal Laws suffered "for celebrating Mass according to a rite forbidden by law." The language of Article 31 with regard to "the Sacrifices of Masses" indicates a wider difference between the English Communion Service and the Missal than that which separates the Use of Sarum from that of Rome. But that the Elizabethan settlement of religion contained "elements of continuity" is true. This continuity is the justification of the historical High Church party; a party, however, which is as extinct in the religious as that of the Whigs in the political world. Anglo-Catholicism is a local variety of the European religious reaction of the post-Revolution period. Canon Lacey is a learned and relatively moderate representative of his school. But his attitude towards the crucial point of Eucharistic adoration is uncompromising:—

"In the presence of the Holy Sacrament, in whatever mode reserved, we are all agreed that it is the right and duty of the faithful to express by outward acts of reverence their adoration of Our Lord there sacramentally present."

This is pure Latinism. In the Eastern Church such adoration is unknown, Christ being present in the Sacra-

ment, it is held, *incognito*. While the words of Article 25 are peremptory: "The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon or to be carried about, but that we should duly use them." The revision of the Prayer Book demanded by our Anglo-Ultramontanes is, in the literal sense of the word, a Romanizing revision: it would revolutionize not only the ritual, but the teaching and the *type* of worship of the Church.

By the rule of contraries Anglo-Catholicism suggests Evangelicalism, and a volume on this "variety of Christian expression" is in preparation. But, for whatever reason, the Evangelicals, numerous and respected as they are, do not pull their weight in the Church. Their strength lies among elderly laymen—"Jones is sixty"; and their clergy are curiously invertebrate. The stalwarts take up stunts, such as "British Israel" or the "Second Advent"; and those who reach positions of influence retain their Evangelicalism, if at all, *in petto*. They are shy of being taken for Protestants; the Anglo-Catholics can count invariably on their benevolent neutrality, and, as a rule, on their vote.

Professor Gardner gives us a lucid statement of "the relation of Modernism to the great development which has taken place in our knowledge of history and science." The movement is, indeed, "less a system of belief than a tendency, or drift away from conventional Christianity towards experience and fact." Its philosophical foundation is disputed. The Professor's view that this is "pragmatist or activist" is by no means universally accepted. *Tamen usque recurret* may be said of metaphysics: if it is a ghost, it is one that has not been laid. And Modernism is, in substance, historical rather than speculative; *i.e.*, a revolt against those "pious frauds—pretended inspirations, forged books, and counterfeit miracles"—from which, as so orthodox a divine as Paley reminds us, "Christianity has suffered more injury than from all other causes put together."

In Mr. Goldring's "Reminiscences" we pass out of the world of religious party into that of actual life. The transition is neither unwelcome nor unprofitable. For the Church, though it takes a temporary colour from these partial and passing movements, is not identical with them: it is something more lasting, and more many-sided. The book is full of good stories. Those of the late excellent Bishop Atlay are redolent of a past age. His address to his ordination candidates is an example:—

"I wish to give you what I believe to be sound advice based on my experience of nearly fifty years in the ministry. In the first place, let me urge you to pay your bills punctually, and—what is equally important—to file your receipts. There is much dishonesty in the world, and the clergy are often the victims of it. In the second place, be careful to answer your letters promptly, and to be punctual in keeping appointments. In the third, I would remind you that you must pay your fees to my secretary before you are ordained to-morrow. If you pay by cheque, make the cheque payable to him, and cross it. Some of you may not know how to do this, so I will tell you. You draw two parallel lines across the face of the document and write the words 'and Co.' in between them. Now let us pray."

He was most hospitable; his port was excellent; and he "did the candidates well" while they were his guests. "You young men are inclined to be nervous on occasions like this," he said on the morning of the ordination. "Let me recommend you to make a good breakfast." *Autres temps, autres mœurs*. The author's comment is:—

"Bishop Atlay may not have been what is called 'a spiritually minded' man. But he had less humbug about him and more common sense than any Bishop I have ever met."

He was a High Churchman, of the type of Trollope's Archdeacon Grantly; who, it is to be remembered, missed his bishopric by the elevation of Mrs. Proudie's husband to the bench.

The "Recollections," however, are more than either a collection of anecdotes or a picture of the Church at a time when it bulked larger in the national life than it does at present; the writer's outlook over the religious situation in which we now find ourselves is at once judicious and sane.

"The real danger which threatens the Church of England at the present time is not the spread of Anglo-Catholicism or Modernism, to which a limit is set by the mentality of the English people, but the machinery which has lately been set up with the object of giving her greater freedom in the management of her own affairs."

This machinery is the outcome of what is known as the Life and Liberty Movement, which is roundly described as "stupid" and "mischievous." It is now extinct. But "the evil that men do lives after them." Its legacy to English religion is the National Assembly which, with the Parochial Councils,

"was foisted on the Church by a small clique of faddists and busybodies, at a time when people's minds were preoccupied with other matters. The electoral roll was signed only by an insignificant minority of Churchmen, and even after seven years most of them will have nothing to do with it."

With regard to the laity, in particular, whom it professed to enfranchise, a less representative body could not be conceived.

A. F.

EARLY TUDOR DRAMATISTS

Early Tudor Drama. Medwall, the Rastells, Heywood, and the More Circle. By A. W. REED, M.A., D.Litt. (Methuen. 10s. 6d.)

DR. REED's book on Early Tudor Drama is written by an expert for experts. It is a characteristic production of the modern school of super-researchers who tend to bury their subjects and to suffocate their readers in a cascade of facts. No praise can be too high for the laborious investigation of records, the scrupulous accuracy, the patience which have gone to the making of this book. Yet a mere amateur and journalist is tempted to ask whether the results are worth nine years of painful and lonely vigils; and an irresponsible hedonist, who is apt to consider literature as one of life's pleasures, may lay down the book with a sigh to think that pleasures may be taken so sadly. No doubt it is necessary that scholars should devote themselves—emulators of Marcus Curtius—to these frightful researches and tedious compilations for the good of the Republic of Letters. While giving ungrudging admiration to this devotion, one cannot but express some misgiving at the results of a too severe application of the rules of experimental science to literature and the fine arts. It is rather like substituting picture-cleaning for the enjoyment of art. A reader must needs possess a stout heart and digestion to get through passages like this:—

"The Lord Chamberlain's Accounts support the view that he was not, during this period, an active servant, for whilst he was granted full livery for himself and two servants at the funeral of Edward VI., under whom he had succeeded to Sir Wm. Penyson's pension of £40, he was not mentioned in the accounts of Henry VIII.'s funeral (L.C.2/2), nor of the coronation of Edward VI. (L.C.2/3), when his pension was £10. Similarly, having definitely retired on November 12th, 1558, he does not appear in the accounts of Mary's funeral (L.C.9.5 (2)), nor of the coronation of Elizabeth (L.C.9/4)."

A considerable portion of Dr. Reed's book is made up of details no more thrilling, and no more relevant to early Tudor drama, than this. In fact, only a small part of the book deals with plays at all. Most of it is occupied with researches into documents about the Rastells, the Heywoods, and the household of Sir Thomas More. The central thesis of Dr. Reed's book is that the primitive and rather tedious interludes which mark the transition from mediæval to Elizabethan drama were inspired by Sir Thomas More. This is interesting. One cannot help regretting that Dr. Reed did not suppress his passion for transcribing records in order to write a more human study of the More household, and its possible and probable influence on the plays of Heywood, Rastell, and Medwall. As it is, the book perishes in an excess of method; and information, which might interest many readers of old English drama, is so presented that it will repel all but a very small circle of experts.

The plays or interludes which form the excuse for these researches number eleven. Six of them are given to Heywood, three to Rastell, and two to Medwall. "Gentleness and Nobility," which used to be ranked among Heywood's plays, is given to Rastell by Dr. Reed, who also gives him "The Four Elements" and the "Calisto and Meliboea," which is derived from a Spanish original. Medwall, who was a follower of More's early patron, Cardinal Morton, is

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the author of "Nature" and "Fulgens and Lucres." At this distance of time, no one can say to what extent More inspired these works. All the authors concerned were more or less closely connected with More and could hardly fail to assimilate something from a man whose personality was so striking. Unhappily, the plays themselves are really very dull, and it is difficult to feel any excitement about them, even when one learns that some misguided American paid £3,400 for a copy of "Fulgens and Lucres."

Dr. Reed very honestly does not try to pretend that his plays have much intrinsic merit. Speaking of Medwall he frankly says:—

"Nature is a play of a type that cannot avoid dullness and was soon to become obsolete ; the criticism applied to it should be adjusted to the type."

May it be insinuated that Dr. Reed has succeeded in attaining this adjustment? However, Dr. Reed finds something "arresting" in the concluding stanzas of "Gentleness and Nobility," which begin thus:—

" But because that men of nature euermore
Be frayle & folowing sensualyte
Yt is impossibyl in a maner therfore
For any gouernours that be in auctoryte
At all tymys Just & indyfferent to be
Except they be brydelyd & ther to compellyd
By some strayt laws for them deuyssyd."

Such were the rude forefathers of the English drama, whose works cannot honestly be recommended as likely to delight the "general reader" and of whose carefully documented biographies the said reader will doubtless be content to remain ignorant. It is greatly to be wished that in future Dr. Reed will devote his scholarship to topics of more general interest in a less frigid style.

RICHARD ALDINGTON.

WHEN FOOTBALL COMES

The Fight for the Ashes in 1926. By P. F. WARNER. (Harrap. 15s.)

Collins's Men. By A. E. R. GILLIGAN. (Arrowsmith. 7s. 6d.)

The Game's Afoot. An Anthology. Edited by BERNARD DARWIN. (Sidgwick & Jackson. 7s. 6d.)

FOR all the poet's fallacious reasoning, winter is made no more agreeable by reading books about cricket. Shakespeare argued more truthfully:—

" Who
Can wallow naked in December snow
By thinking on fantastic Summer's heat?"

Grass becomes yet more muddy, air more foggy, wind more chill by dreaming through December nights of the verdure and the bunting of Lord's! But, as the Good Book says: "In times of adversity, consider," and Mr. Warner and Mr. Gilligan in these two volumes would have us consider. Mr. Warner's book consists almost entirely of his reports of the Australian fixtures for the MORNING POST and to his defence of the Selection Committee. His position is superficially a strong one, as the English team, with all the luck on their side, did succeed, in the only completed Test Match, in defeating the weakest Australian team since the '80's. How much this is to boast about is a matter we need not now discuss. At any rate, it is a pleasure to know that Rhodes, but for his own unwillingness, would have played earlier.

Mr. Gilligan's book is full of disadvantages. It is highly ungrammatical ; he has the greatest difficulty in filling up his space, and he is copious with the cant of sportsmanship. Perhaps the last Australian XI. did really consist of eleven Sir Philip Sidneys, but we will not take Mr. Gilligan's word for it. On the other hand, some of what he has to say is the result of original thought and thoroughly worth reading. Mr. Gilligan does not pretend that all is well with cricket just because the fifth Test Match was somehow won. He has some useful suggestions for improving the present position : the abolition of maiden overs in the averages list ; omitting the striker's score on the scoring board ; a new ball every hundred runs, &c. Above all, he has a highly intelligent anonymous friend who is all against playing out Test matches. He destroys any amount of loose thinking. There

is only space for one passage. He is discussing the Lord's Test Match :—

"Here we have to consider what the demeanour and tactics of all concerned would have been, had six days been allotted in the first instance. It is not reasonable to take the figures as they were recorded. Although, even if we do that, it is certain A. W. Carr would not have declared when he did on the Tuesday. With England's score then 475 for three, and the bowling tiring, if not dead beat, most cricketers will agree that England's first innings total would have been at least 700 or 800, assuming the pitch did not crumble. This being so, the Australians would have been faced on the Wednesday near lunch time by a deficit of round about 350 runs and two days left to play in. The imagination trembles before the vista of possibilities which such a picture evokes. Australia going in to bat on a still perfect and lifeless wicket. What would their tactics be? The question need hardly be asked."

The helplessness of the bowling is one half of our present ills. Mr. Bernard Darwin, in his delightfully various anthology, illustrates the other half in a quotation from Mr. Cardus :—

"Maiden over indeed with Tyldesley in form! He would plunder the six most virgin deliveries you ever saw. It was hard even to pitch a decent length to him. For he knew, unlike the modern batsman, that length is not absolute, but relative to a batsman's reach. And though Tyldesley was a little man, his feet had the dancing-master's lightness and rapidity of motion. He covered a larger floor space as he made his hits than any batsman playing to-day—not even excepting Hobbs. What disdain he must have in these times for the excuse of timid batsmen that they must cultivate patience till bad bowling comes to them! How long would Tyldesley have required to wait for half-volleys from J. T. Hearne, Trumble, Blythe, Noble, and the rest?"

As for those who say the young are too much snubbed, listen once more to Mr. Gilligan's friend :—

" You happen to have written to me on the day when my morning paper informs me that Lancashire have stayed in for over a day and a half at Old Trafford for 509 for 9 wickets against Yorkshire. The Yorkshire bowlers sent down 192 overs. Of these the moderns, Macaulay, Waddington, Kilner, Robinson, and Oldroyd, delivered 150 overs between them for 366 runs and took 2 wickets. The 'ancient' Rhodes, on the other hand, returned the following analysis, 42 overs, 7 maidens, 116 runs, 7 wickets."

Verily, in times of adversity consider and in back-winter clear your minds of cant.

FRANCIS BIRRELL.

AN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to India, 1615-19. Edited by SIR WILLIAM FOSTER, C.I.E. (Oxford University Press. 18s.; India paper, 21s.)

THE first English ambassador to any Far Eastern country went at the charges of a merchant company. Men before him had styled themselves ambassadors, but the Mogul court understood perfectly that they were only messengers of a trading concern. Sir Thomas Roe's "Journal" shows a court half-amused by, and entirely contemptuous of, his claim that he represented a monarch the equal of their own. His difficulties were increased by English sailors who brawled in seaports, and by factors who resented his integrity and stiffness. They were increased, too, by his own insistence on permission to fortify some place against the Portuguese ; the Mogul Power, ignorant of the sea, had begun to suspect that naval strength mattered, and the one thing it respected in both English and Portuguese was this naval strength, whose extent was unknown. But Roe's worst mistake was his ignoring Nurmahal, Jahangir's all-powerful wife. Though they never met, she seems to have guessed that he disliked her ; and he bribed neither her nor her brother. Everywhere, most of all in Jahangir's presence, when Roe spoke of treaties and concessions the question was what presents had he brought. Jahangir's greed is revealed in scores of amusing episodes. He demanded gifts, and more gifts. In return, Roe, whom his employers expected to be in large part paid by imperial generosity, received "wyld hoggs, deare, a theefe, and a whore." The last was "a grave woeman of 40 years," a slave who offended Nurmahal, and for punishment was presented to the English-

man. He refused both "theepe" and "whore," explaining that the English did not keep slaves.

No country ever had a better ambassador. He was prepared to walk out from the presence of the Emperor himself, rather than lower the dignity that he represented. In our little interest in India the Great Mogul has become as tediously trivial to us as our James was to him, but Roe's "Journal," with its manifold and crowded interest, deserves as wide a circle of readers as Pepys. The book shows us an ambassador proud, stubbornly brave, free from self-seeking, a close observer of events; and an Emperor tolerant, affable, but weak and barbarous in his absolute rule. Jahangir, who gets drunk nightly, overhears a jest about the previous evening's orgy, and after solemn inquiry has offenders scourged, one till he dies; he watches with delight while his "elephants" trample malefactors; he has a hundred thieves half-beheaded and left with their heads hanging, after "twelve doggs tare the princellall" close to Roe's lodging; one of Nurmahal's women, having kissed a eunuch, is buried to the armpits till the July sun kills her. Roe tells us all this; but he shows us the same emperor in patient, humble discourse with a fakir, or keenly and acutely appraising pictures and European miniatures, or questioning the Englishman as to the nature and qualities of beer and whether he knew how to make it.

The publishers have done their work excellently; and, except for the seventy-page "Introduction"—a précis of the book in such detail as to fog and weary the reader—the editing is almost flawless. Roe's wild shots at spelling names of places and people are put on their target with marvellous skill, the footnotes are compact, informing, and adequate. On page 246 *tiger* seems to be a slip for *lion*, since *Singh* means *lion*; and I can explain why Roe (footnote, page 65) thought the "kos" of the interior longer than that of the coastal districts." A *kos* is two miles; but the jungle *kos* is a "broken-branch" one—the distance travelled while a branch taken from the wayside withers! EDWARD THOMPSON.

THE MAKING OF FRANCE

France. By SISLEY HUDDLESTON. (Benn. 21s.)

MR. HUDDLESTON'S "France" is a useful book, the defects of which are due to an attempt to cover too much ground in a single volume. In conformity with the general scheme of the series, he tells us, he has endeavoured "to show the historical forces which have been at work in the formation of France," and to trace "the course of events, political, diplomatic, social, intellectual, and economic, from the Roman occupation to the difficulties of our day." The majority of the book is therefore devoted to a necessarily sketchy account of French history, the principal merits of which are a good style, a liberal outlook, and a catholic rather than a discriminating appreciation.

Mr. Huddleston's general sketch of France is the best in the English language, but it will not supersede previous books. For Bodley's prejudiced and out-of-date account made a more interesting effort at interpretation, and Robert Dell's partial little essay brought home the central features of modern French political and economic problems more pungently, because the historical background was implied and not described.

These problems are briefly discussed by Mr. Huddleston in the final section of his book. He deals with French foreign policy, the evils of the group system, the financial chaos, the Parliamentary fiasco, and gives illuminating thumb-nail sketches of French politicians. He talks a little of "Etatisme" and the weakness of local government. His approach to these and other current problems is so sane that one can only wish he had been able to devote more space to describing the counteracting forces which he believes to be at work. He is hopeful of French "youth," but we are left in the dark about the actual direction of its beneficial activities. What is the real remedy for "Etatisme" which Lamennais described as "paralysis at the centre and atrophy at the extremities"? Is "regionalism" a real cure and may it become practical politics? A dozen such questions will occur to the reader, but it will not be fair to Mr. Huddleston to complain that he has not answered them.

THE STAGE

Confessions of an Actor. By JOHN BARRYMORE. (Holden. 10s. 6d.)

A Playgoer's Wanderings. By H. M. WALBROOK. (Parsons. 10s. 6d.)

No profession is so rich as the theatrical in anecdotes and recollections; for, whether these proceed from actor or spectator, they can generally command an appreciative, or at least a tolerant, audience. Here are reminiscences from both sides of the curtain. Mr. Barrymore writes from the stage, Mr. Walbrook from the pit, which he chooses both for company and situation in preference to other parts of the theatre. Mr. Barrymore is less certain of the wisdom of his own choice. Not only do his thoughts turn to the joys of fishing when he should, from the stage, be thrilling Mr. Walbrook in the pit, but he confesses that he would sooner have been a painter, his stage career being due to the chance possession of an acting family. How many aspiring actors without influence must envy him this undesired fortune!

The fact that Mr. Barrymore is as yet more occupied by his present career than by his past, is perhaps responsible for the casual manner of his narrative. Rapid sketches of early American struggles, of Australian touring companies, of "Hamlet" in London, are thrown disconnectedly together; and the final announcement that the author is working in Hollywood provides the explanation. No actor engaged on so solemn a travesty as the screen version of "Moby Dick" could spare much interest for compiling reminiscences. To be candid, there is surprisingly little in Mr. Barrymore's book; but admirers wishing to possess photographs ranging from Jekyll to Hyde through all the intermediate stages, are well catered for.

With Mr. Walbrook the case is different. He proves again that if the theatre is primarily a place of entertainment, it becomes, to the veteran playgoer, a place of infinite regret. By no one are the "good old days" more heartily deplored. The plays, the actors, the audiences, and not least the vanished playhouses, call up memories infused with all the sentiment of recollection. Mr. Walbrook has an avowed reverence for the past, both in drama and journalism, which leads to a corresponding denunciation of the present. Shingled heads and "brain" are to him the poor descendants of fine acting and passion; while audiences that forsake Barrie and Pinero for Shaw are no more commendable than those who desert fairies for buffoons. Mr. Walbrook has, in fact, no whale to fight at Hollywood; the past is not cheated of its due. But his illustrations will be less popular than Mr. Barrymore's with the present generation.

ANOTHER BOOK ON BYRON

Byron: a Study of the Poet in the light of new discoveries. By ALBERT BRECKNOCK. (Palmer. 12s. 6d.)

It is impossible to regard this book as a serious contribution to Byronic literature. The reader is naturally attracted by the claim implied in the sub-title, but he will be extremely fortunate if he succeeds in finding a "new" discovery of any value. The trouble largely is that Mr. Brecknock does not consider his reader's convenience. He never indicates, in his text, what is "new," and very often he quotes without giving his authority. In justice to him, it must be observed that he quotes extensively, and it may very well be that these quotations have not been used in any previous biography or criticism; but granting his discovery of such material, we have only to say that it casts no new light on the poet, for it is not, in itself, of a different nature from any known Byronic commentary.

Mr. Brecknock takes up arms in defence of Byron, the man; but those who are inclined to think that there was something of the blackguard in Byron will soon come to the conclusion that he needs a stouter vindication than this. Mr. Brecknock merely touches clumsily on a few superficial aspects. He devotes a chapter to Byron's funeral, another to Hucknall Torkard Church, a third to a detailed description of Newstead Abbey, in which, indeed, he makes some attempt to establish affinities between the poet and his environment.

His method is only approximately chronological ; he treats his subject from different points of view, and " exhausts " each separately. Realizing that, if his conception of Byron is to be acceptable, he must convince his readers of his impartiality, Mr. Brecknock endeavours to be just. He ruefully admits imperfections ; but it is found that he glosses over some of the facts. He dismisses and accepts too lightly ; and is content to tell us that no " intelligent person " believed in the accusation brought against the poet and his half-sister Augusta.

Sometimes Mr. Brecknock is blandly fatuous, as when he affirms " it is generally believed " that Byron comes next after Shakespeare as a poetic artist ; and he writes throughout in a thin stream of clichés, which suggests either that the writer is mortally tired, or that he is pressed for time, or that he has no command over the language. There are many charming illustrations.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Experiences of a Literary Man. By STEPHEN GWYNN. (Butterworth. 21s.)

One tends almost to forget, as the flood of memoirs pours over one's head, that the story of a life can possess all the dignity of a work of art. Mr. Gwynn earns our gratitude by bringing this old forgotten fact before us. It is possible to go on reading and building up a picture of the past as one reads without the uncomfortable feeling that one is stepping through a vacancy on a few good stories. Good stories there are, of course, but they are led up to and on from. Literature and politics have been the twin interests of Mr. Gwynn's life, but, judging from the title, the accent should fall upon literature. The figures of the late nineteenth century—we need scarcely recount the familiar names—were all known to him. He had also the advantage of a double nationality ; the Irish were his friends as well as the English. At Oxford he deplored the waste of great men—Walter Pater, for example, was scarcely known to the students. A notice on a gate said, however, that he was at home on Wednesdays to consider essays. Mr. Gwynn went, and roused him, much surprised, from a couch on which he had evidently been asleep. Ruskin, with a lump of soft blue silk for a tie, loose trousers, and a gold chain, was more accessible. They revered him, so that when in lecturing he imitated a bird scratching no one laughed. As adviser to Macmillan's, Mr. Gwynn visited Wells, who said " Yeats . . . Yeats doesn't like science," and Yeats, who said " Wells ! that man has a mind like a sewing machine ! " But, as we said before, the book does not owe its worth to its stories.

The Oil War. By ANTON MOHR. With an introduction by HARTLEY WITHERS. (Hopkinson. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Mohr is a lecturer in Political Geography at the University of Ohio. He has given an extremely lively account of the politico-economic struggle for oil which has had such a strange history during recent years. The real facts are not always easy to obtain, but Mr. Mohr gives them, so far as they are obtainable, and does not, as some other writers have done, allow his speculative imagination to take control of his book. He owes a good deal to M. de la Tramerye's " La Lutte mondiale pour le pétrole," an English translation of which was published a year or two ago by Messrs. Allen & Unwin.

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THE OWNER-DRIVER

DO you think there will be any reduction in cars during the coming spring? I propose to buy a . . . but I do not wish to order it now and find at Easter that the price has gone down."

This is the gist of a letter I have received—not from Aberdeen, but from Dublin!

I have assured my cautious correspondent that there is not a million to one chance of the make he mentions being cut in price for some months at least. On the contrary, the people who obtain delivery of the most popular cars for Easter will be extremely lucky, because I find accumulating evidence that manufacturers will not overtake the demand this side of Whitsuntide. The shortage of steel has upset producers' plans very badly.

The wonder is that such wonderful value is obtainable. Amongst the 1927 cars I have taken over my test route in the North of England this week is the new 12-28 h.p. Clyno, with Mulliner four-door six-light saloon in antique leather, and I am still asking myself how in the world such a luxury carriage is turned out for £250.

There is comfortable seating for four adults, and one could squeeze in a youngster in addition. The interior finish is extraordinary, having regard to the price, for the fittings include smart window blinds, pull-up cords, window-winders, pockets behind the adjustable front seats, roof light, paper and luggage nets, driving mirror, ladies' companion and ash-trays, over and above the dashboard equipment—a Smith's clock and speedometer, a petrol gauge, dash-lamp, and electric cigar-lighter.

The 11-9 h.p. engine puts up a smart performance on teasing gradients, without calling for bottom gear, and whilst one does not expect every refinement in running in a car of this price, second gear used for hills of 1 in 6 is not unduly audible, even in a closed saloon.

I have no love for cars with anything but light steering, and in this respect the Clyno is entitled to far more than the average number of points, even with 28 x 4.95 cord balloon tyres.

A small saloon must have excellent suspension to afford comfortable riding over my rough test roads. With Smith's shock absorbers fore and aft the Clyno glides over bad surfaces in surprising fashion.

The accessibility of gear-box (a separate unit), dynamo, oil filler, carburettor, magneto, and 12-volt accumulators gladdens the heart of an Owner-Driver, and the Enots grease gun lubricators on the chassis, with spring gaiters, reduce the work of upkeep to a minimum.

The joy of driving depends so largely upon acceleration and deceleration that one accustomed to handling big, fast cars is hard to please, but there is a sense of security about the Clyno four-wheel braking system (with hand and foot brakes operating on Ferodo-lined 12-inch drums) that even a fastidious driver finds no room for criticism.

Only by comparing a 1927 car of this type with the 1914 cars of similar price is it possible to realize the tremendous strides our manufacturers have made. The 12-28 h.p. Clyno saloon represents anything from 50 to 75 per cent. better value than the light cars of twelve or thirteen years ago, and however anxious the public may be to see prices still further reduced, I hope the makers will keep up the present quality standard. Cars like these are cheap enough in all conscience.

RAYNER ROBERTS.

Mr. Rayner Roberts has for many years been recognized as an exceptionally well-informed writer on motoring subjects, and his wide experience as an Owner-Driver is at the service of our readers. Communications should be addressed to the Motor Editor, THE NATION AND ATHENÆUM, 38, Great James Street, W.C.1.

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LECTURES.

"THINNESS: CAUSES AND CURES," by Mr. Eustace Miles, Thursday, January 20th, at 3.45 and 6.15 p.m., in the GREEN SALON, 49, Chandos Street, Charing Cross. Admission 1s.

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TOWYN INTERMEDIATE COUNTY SCHOOL (DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS).

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APPICATIONS are invited for the Headship of the above-named School. Candidates shall have taken a Degree in the United Kingdom. Salary, £650 per annum, rising by annual increments of £15 to £750. Free Residence is provided in the Boys' Hostel on condition that the Headmaster be responsible for the supervision and discipline of the Boarders. Further particulars may be obtained on application.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, and experience, together with 50 copies of not more than three recent testimonials, to be in the hands of the undersigned by February 15th next.

Canvassing will disqualify.

RICHARD BARNETT,
Secretary to the Merioneth L.E.A.

Education Department,
County Offices,
Dolgellau, Merioneth.
January 10th, 1927.

CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

TRURO TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

WANTED, immediately, a full-time ASSISTANT MASTER to teach Engineering Science and Drawing in the Day Junior Technical and Evening Technical Schools, Truro.

Salary in accordance with the Burnham Award for Technical Schools. Forms of application and further particulars may be obtained (on receipt of a stamped and addressed foolscap envelope) from the Principal, The Technical Schools, Truro, to whom they should be returned not later than January 28th, 1927.

F. R. PASCOE,
Secretary for Education.

County Hall, Truro.
January 11th, 1927.

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FINANCIAL SECTION

THE WEEK IN THE CITY

INDUSTRIAL SHARE VALUES—INDUSTRIAL “LEADERS”—TWO SUGGESTIONS.

A ROUGH comparison between Stock Exchange valuations of groups of industrial shares and the profits actually published by these industrial groups at the end of last year affords some amusement, if it does not greatly help the investor. We give below a selection of the securities' index numbers of the *INVESTORS' CHRONICLE* for leading groups of “home industrials” at December 31st, 1924, 1925, and 1926. This shows a rise over last year of nearly 10 per cent. in the brewery index, of over 21 per cent. in the case of coal, though practically nothing in the case of iron and steel, of 10 per cent. in the case of shipping, but a decline of 30 per cent. in the case of silk, and 16 per cent. in the case of other textiles. The profits published in the last quarter of last year by the same industrial groups, though not necessarily by the same companies comprising these groups, which have been examined by the *ECONOMIST*, show, on the other hand, a decline of 2 per cent. in the case of breweries, of 100 per cent. in the case of coal, iron and steel companies (net results being debits), and a rise of 42 per cent. in the case of silk and textile companies, with a rise of only 1.6 per cent. in the case of shipping. The ready explanation of these contradictions is that the Stock Exchange is looking forward and that balance-sheets are looking backward. But in the absence of a definite trade boom the balance-sheets published at the end of last year suggest caution for the investor, seeing that they do not cover the full period of the coal stoppage.

INDEX NUMBERS OF ORDINARY SHARES (DEC. 31ST, 1923 = 100).
(FIGURES OF “INVESTORS’ CHRONICLE.”)

	Dec. 31, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1925.	Dec. 31, 1926.
Brewery	132.5	151.9	166.4
Coal	98.8	74.9	91.2
Iron and Steel	87.0	69.2	69.5
Shipping	114.1	95.8	106.7
Silk	162.0	224.2	158.1
Other Textiles	124.0	122.4	102.8
“All Business” Securities	114.3	115.7	117.2

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As regards the industrial share market generally, it is a question for discussion how far the ancient advice to “follow the leaders” should be applied this year. By “leaders” is usually meant Imperial Tobacco, British American Tobacco, Courtaulds, and Dunlops. Imperial Tobacco ordinary shares have recently fallen from 118s. to 115s. on what seemed to be the popular craze to sell Imperial Tobacco and buy British American Tobacco. This was perhaps prompted by the British American declaring an interim dividend on the new capital at the same rate as in the previous year, and by the excellent report which it made in December showing an increase in profits of over £1,000,000 to £6,000,000. Perhaps also the market is getting tired of waiting for the Imperial Tobacco bonus. The Imperial Tobacco's report is, however, due next month, and seeing that it holds approximately 5,200,000 Ordinary shares of the British American Tobacco Company on which it received last June a bonus of 1,800,000 new shares, with the option to subscribe for 1,040,000 new shares at par, the expectation of a share bonus is not unreasonable. We cannot therefore see that the exchange from Imperial into British American is justified at the moment, especially as risks are more widely spread in Imperial Tobacco than in British American Tobacco. Perhaps the market has been unduly influenced by the remarks of Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen at the General Meeting of the British American when he stated that while the profits which the Company had made seemed large they still amounted to an infinitesimal sum at per caput of the population, numbering between 1,000,000,000 and 1,400,000,000, of the countries in which it sold its goods (though why in calculating his profits per head of population he omitted domestic animals we do not know).

As regards Courtaulds, the directors' report is also due next month. Last year the Company made a profit of £4,411,000, and declared a 17½ per cent. tax free final dividend, making 25 per cent. tax free for the year, and the price of the shares rose to 6½. In July last the interim dividend was reduced from 7½ per cent. to 6½ per cent., and there is some possibility of the final dividend also being reduced. We are informed on good authority that the Company's chief plant at Braintree, Essex, has been working on short time for the whole of last year. It is impossible to say how far the adversities of the artificial silk industry last year have been discounted by the fall in Courtaulds from 6½ to 4½, but as the present price is now 5½, it may be advisable to leave the shares alone until the report is published. Dunlops (6s. 8d. shares) have fallen to 27s. A reaction after the quick rise at the end of last year to 32s. was not unexpected, and the fall has been accentuated by “bear” selling on the cut in tyre prices. It may be mentioned that at the end of December, Dunlops still held the highest place for individual shares in the *INVESTORS' CHRONICLE* Securities Index at 323.8, although they lost 46.9 points during December. The Company's report is due in April, and it is expected that the last year's dividend of 15 per cent. will be increased. From this examination we conclude that an investment in the shares of the industrial “leaders” will probably be justified in the long run, but that the immediate prospects are uncertain.

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Outside the class of “leaders” and the home industrial market, we find perhaps more varied opportunities for safe and attractive investments. We mention here two British companies, Agar Cross & Company and Santa Rosa Milling Company, one engaged in export to the Argentine and the other in milling flour in Chile, whose ordinary shares offer a good running yield and the prospect of gradual capital appreciation. Agar Cross & Company exports to the River Plate agricultural, industrial, and electrical machinery and general merchandise. Its share capital consists of £675,000 in ordinary shares and £300,000 in 7 per cent. Cumulative Preference shares and its loan capital of £500,000 in 5½ per cent. debenture stock. For the last two years the Company has paid 16 per cent. free of tax on the ordinary shares, and in 1924-25 declared a bonus of 50 per cent. in ordinary shares. The balance-sheet at June 30th last showed a strong liquid position with a surplus of current assets over current liabilities of £1,583,000. The ordinary shares at the current price of 55s. 6d. return a yield of £5 15s. per cent. free of tax, and may be said to have “bonus possibilities.” Santa Rosa Milling, of which Lord Forbes is Chairman, shows a good record of profits. 100,000 new ordinary shares were issued last year to provide for a new flour mill in Santiago and the general expansion of the business. Its capital now consists of 312,500 ordinary shares and 187,500 7 per cent. preference shares of £1, and its loan capital of £241,000 6 per cent. Mortgage Debentures. The average profits of the Company for the last six years amounted to £52,878, or over 16 per cent. on the old ordinary shares, after providing for the 7 per cent. dividend on the Preference shares. Since 1920 dividends have averaged 9½ per cent. The dividend for 1925 was 10 per cent., and an interim dividend has been declared in respect of 1926 of 2½ per cent., which was at the same rate as the interim dividend for 1925. The new shares rank for dividends out of earnings as from January 1st, 1927, i.e., they do not rank for the final dividend to be declared on the old ordinary shares in respect of 1926. Until recently the old shares of the Company have been privately held, and the right to transfer has been very strictly limited. This restriction has now been removed, and a market should gradually develop in both old and new shares, which gives a purchaser to-day an almost certain prospect of capital appreciation. At 23s. 3d. the new ordinary shares yield £8 12s.

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